Daily Report

Latin America

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Group of Eight Meeting Opens in Oaxaca

PA2606180488 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0150 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Report by Juana Jaramillo from Oaxaca—recorded]

[Text] Opening the Group of Eight's fourth permanent meeting for consultation and political coordination here in Oaxaca, Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor appealed to his colleagues to find the minimal requirements to achieve Latin American integration, which he termed a political necessity that cannot be postponed.

At the end of the first round of talks among the Group of Eight's seven active foreign ministers, held behind closed doors, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat reported the conferees agreed that the process of Latin American economic integration must not be achieved exclusively through trade; rather, it should take into account the region's economic situation. They also agreed that this action should be based on a political decision to advance in this direction.

It was said the foreign debt would not be the main topic of the meeting. Nonetheless, possible solutions to negotiate with the international organizations attending this meeting—SELA, the World Bank, ALADI, and the IDB—will be studied. The seven foreign ministers will visit Monte Alban tomorrow and continue their talks when they return.

C. American Vice Presidents Meeting Postponed

PA2606205088 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1721 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—According to a statement made today by a government source, the Central American vice presidents will meet in Guatemala on 25 July, at El Salvador's request.

Presidential spokesman Julio Santos said that the meeting of Central American vice presidents had been scheduled for 20-21 June, but that "it was postponed because of Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte's illness."

Faced with this situation, and given the fact that Vice President Rodolfo Castillo Claramount is acting president of El Salvador, the meeting was postponed until July.

Santos stated that the vice presidents "will prepare the agenda of topics to be discussed by the Central American presidents at the summit meeting scheduled for 7 August in El Salvador."

By that time, President Duarte will have returned from the United States, where he underwent stomach surgery for terminal cancer, which has spread to his liver.

Santos pointed out that by then, Guatemalan Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle will have returned from his 30 June-23 July trip to Italy, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

Cuba

U.S. Restrictions on Diplomats Protested to UN

PA2508210688 Havana International Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Cuba has protested to the United Nations the restrictions imposed on its diplomatic personnel in the United States by the U.S. Government, describing them as unfriendly and a violation of international law.

In a meeting with UN officials, Alberto Velazco-San Jose, Cuban alternate permanent UN representative, said that as a result of these measures, he was unable to attend ceremonies in San Francisco to mark the 40th anniversary of the United Nations. In addition, he said Cuban representatives were prevented from participating in WHO meetings in Washington. Velazco-San Jose said the U.S. authorities stamp Cuban diplomats' passports to restrict their travel within the United States.

Daniel Ortega To Begin Official Visit 27 June

PA2508210888 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega will begin an official visit to Cuba on Monday, 27 June. During his visit he will receive the Jose Marti Order, the highest award given by the Cuban Government. The FSLN leader has come to our country on three previous occasions, but only on stopovers or private visits.

Daniel Ortega will arrive in Havana accompanied by several Nicaraguan Government ministers, who will hold working meetings with their Cuban counterparts. [passage omitted]

Talks With Castro Planned

PA2606135188 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0740 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Havana, 26 Jun (EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega will begin his first official visit to Cuba on Monday. It is believed that the current situation surrounding the peace negotiations underway in Nicaragua will be the main topic of discussion between Ortega and Cuban President Fidel Castro. A Cuban Foreign Ministry spokesman has described the Sandinist leader's upcoming visit to Cuba as "a friendly working visit."

According to the same source, this visit was not arranged in response to any specific events but was scheduled some time ago and is aimed generally at further strengthening the excellent bilateral relations that exist between the two countries. The Foreign Ministry spokesman added that Cuban-Nicaraguan relations "have been maintained at the highest level" since they were established on 27 July 1979.

Meanwhile, President Fidel Castro recently said that Cuban-Nicaraguan relations "were established long before the triumph of the revolution, when the Sandinists were still fighting in the mountains, and they have always been close relations." [passage omitted]

Daniel Ortega will arrive in Havana tomorrow afternoon and will remain there for 4 or 5 days. During his visit to Cuba, Ortega will have a very busy schedule. At the same time, several members of the Nicaraguan delegation will meet with their Cuban counterparts.

Jaime Wheelock, agricultural development and agrarian reform minister; Luis Carrion, economy, industry, and commerce minister; and Miguel D'Escoto, Nicaraguan foreign minister, are among the Sandinist leaders who will accompany Ortega on his trip to Havana.

The Cuban authorities have announced that during Ortega's visit to the island, several bilateral agreements will be signed. There is also the possibility that Ortega will meet with Nicaraguan youths who are studying in Cuba.

Ortega will also be awarded the "Jose Marti" Order. This distinction, reserved for heads of state and high-ranking officials, will be presented by Cuban President Fidel Castro.

Quadripartite Talks on Southern Africa Reported

S. African Position 'Rejected'

FL2408202988 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1940 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] The Angolan and Cuban delegation, participating in a quadripartite conference in Cairo on the subject of the South-Western region of Africa, has questioned the entire position of South Africa and rejected an unacceptable a so-called counterproposal made by Pretoria.

According to statements published by the press accredited to the meeting, this counterproposal was rejected in its entirety because of its lack of realism and inappropriate arrogance.

Even though the representatives participating in the meeting generally maintained silence on what was being discussed at the conference—which is also being attended by U.S. delegates—reports are circulating that specialists say are accurate.

One of these reports was attributed to circles close to the U.S. delegation. It commented on the severe attack made by the Angolans and Cubans on South Africa's position.

Luanda and Havana unleashed an aggressive attack on their position and presented a proposal in place of Pretoria's counterproposal.

Talks Enter 2d Day

FL2506115488 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] The conference between an Angolan-Cuban delegation and representatives from South Africa and the United States resumed today in Cairo at the announced time.

The participating delegations insisted on maintaining silence, which was previously agreed upon by the parties involved in the talks. However, press sources report it is possible the meeting will end today. Observers and press sources are of the opinion there is a possibility another meeting will be held but the date and location were not mentioned.

This is the second meeting the delegations have held in just over a month. In May, Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States met for the first time in London to analyze the situation in southern Africa.

July Meeting in U.S. Planned

FL2506182588 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] The quadripartite conference on South-West Africa among the delegations of Cuba, Angola, South Africa, and the United States resumed today at the Peace Hotel in Cairo.

According to AFP, Jorge Risquet Valdez, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, who is heading the Cuban delegation, told the press the problems will be analyzed for as long as is necessary.

For his part, Roelof Pik Botha, minister of foreign affairs of South Africa, said the atmosphere is excellent. According to U.S. sources, a phase of serious and constructive negotiations began today. The same sources indicated the main question South Africa wants discussed is the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalists in Angola. Meanwhile, the Luanda government demands that the Pretoria regime first stop all aggressions against the Angolan nation and begin the decolonization of Namibia.

The Spanish news agency EFE indicated that both sides have made a commitment to softening their respective positions if they receive mutual guarantees and if a schedule of concessions is drafted.

Meanwhile the plenum of the Central Committee of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola]-Labor Party, which was held in Luanda, outlined concrete measures to strengthen the defense and security of the country.

A last-minute urgent message from AFP says that South Africa, Angola, Cuba, and the United States will meet in the first 10 days of July in an as yet undisclosed location in the United States to continue the talks on South-Western Africa. The cable adds that the decision was taken at the quadripartite talks which ended today in Cairo, during which new proposals and counterproposals were made.

Risquet: Talks 'Useful'

FL2706115088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] The quadripartite conference on the situation in South-West Africa has ended in Cairo, Egypt, with a communique stating that progress was made at the talks.

In the document, the Cuban, Angolan, South African, and U.S delegations express their profound appreciation to the Egyptian Government for its initiative in serving as the host country and effectively supporting the meeting. The delegations agreed to meet at the experts level in the United States during the week of 11 July.

Jorge Risquet Valdez, member of the PCC Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, who heads the [Cuban] committee that forms the delegation along with Angolan representatives, said that Havana and Luanda desire an agreement that will bring about Namibia's independence, security for the Angolan people, and peace in that part of the world.

Risquet reiterated that an agreement between the parties should have as a focal point the application, without modifications, of UN Security Council Resolution 435, which calls for Namibia's independence.

In reference to the topics brought up at the meeting, the Cuban leader said that there is a gentlemen's agreement between the delegations to not divulge what was discussed and that he respects this pact. He said the meeting was useful and added that he expects advancements to be made in the next meeting, which will be held in the United States.

Ghanaian Prime Minister Obeng Arrives on Visit

FL2306124288 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] Ghanaian Prime Minister Paul Victor Obeng arrived early this morning in our country for an official and working visit. Obeng and his delegation were received at the Jose Marti Airport by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, and other state leaders and officials.

Obeng is a member of the Provisional National Defense Council, chairman of the Ghana investment board, and deputy chairman of the national economic commission. The Ghanaian delegation, which also includes Kwame Peprah, secretary for lands and natural resources, will meet with state and party leaders. It will also visit centers of economic, historical, and cultural interest in Havana, Isle of Youth, Santiago de Cuba, and Cienfuegos.

Delegations Hold Official Talks

FL2306195388 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] Official talks between the Governments of Ghana and Cuba concluded a few moments ago. The meeting was held at the offices of the Council of State in our capital. The delegations were presided over by Victor Oheng, Ghanaian prime minister and member of the Provisional National Defense Council, and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and vice president of the Council of Ministers.

The Ghanaian prime minister arrived in Cuba on an official visit early this morning. He is accompanied by Kwame Peprah, secretary for lands and natural resources, and (Koi Hasel), director of economic cooperation for that African brother country.

The Ghanaian delegation this morning placed a flower wreath at the foot of the Jose Marti Monument in Revolution Square.

Cooperation Prospects Explored

FL2406112388 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1035 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and P.V. Oheng, prime minister of Ghana, have begun in Havana the search for solutions to strengthen Cuban-Ghanaian cooperation in the agriculture, construction, and agricultural-livestock areas. The Ghanaian prime minister had earlier arrived in Cuba heading a delegation from his country.

The talks, in which the scope of cooperation was explored, were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. This cooperation includes the repair of ships and sugar mills, the rehabilitation of housing, and the treatment of woods. Cuba and Ghana confirmed the satisfactory level achieved in cooperation since 1983, as demonstrated by the fact that Cuba has sent medical brigades, sports trainers, Spanish-language teachers, and other specialists.

Meets With Malmierca

FL2406195188 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] P.V. Oheng, member of the Provisional National Defense Council and prime minister of the Republic of Ghana, and Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban minister of foreign relations, today held a working meeting at the Foreign Ministry in Havana. The two officials analyzed bilateral relations, the situation in southern Africa and Central America, and other topics of mutual interest.

The prime minister's visit to Cuba will conclude on 29 June.

Meets Education Minister

FL2506032288 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] P.V. Oheng, member of the Provisional National Defense Council and prime minister of the Republic of Ghana, today held a working meeting with Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers and education minister.

The prime minister conveyed greetings to Fernandez from the president of Ghana, Jerry John Rawlings, and expressed his gratitude for the assistance given by Cuba in solidarity with that African country in the fields of training of mid-level technicians and higher education.

The Cuban minister said the Ghanaian scholarship students are studious and work hard. The only thing they need from their country, he said, is more current information on the events in their homeland. We value this aspect very highly in order to maintain their nationality, culture, and language, said Fernandez.

There are currently 995 Ghanaian students studying in Cuba, continued Fernandez. Cuba offers them the chance to study specialties that will help them contribute to their country's economic development, including agronomy, veterinary medicine, medicine, engineering, and nursing, said the Cuban education minister. During the next school year, he said, 108 new students will enroll in different types of education centers.

The prime minister of Ghana is on an official and working visit.

Received by Fidel Castro

FL2506143488 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, received on Friday afternoon Mr P.V. Oheng, prime minister of the Republic of Ghana, who is in Cuba on an official and working visit.

The meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere which characterizes the relations between the two countries. During the talks, various subjects of mutual interest were discussed regarding bilateral relations, the international situation, especially in Africa, and other matters. The visitor was accompanied by Mr Kwame Peprah, secretary for lands and natural resources; Mr Kojo Amoo-Gottfried, Ghanaian ambassador to Cuba; and other members of the delegation. The Cuban delegation consisted of Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and Nicolas Rodriguez, Cuban ambassador in Ghana.

Garcia Frias, UN Official at Ecosystems Seminar

FL2306204488 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Report from Santiago de Cuba by (Esteban de Villaranda)]

[Text] (Mario Galin), deputy director general of the FAO, [name and title as heard] has stated that relations between his organization and Cuba are a model of close cooperation and of interest in development. (Galin) is participating in the Latin American seminar-workshop on protected ecosystems in mountain areas taking place at Playa Daiquiri in Santiago de Cuba. It is being attended by more than 100 national and foreign delegates.

Guillermo Garcia Frias, member of the PCC Central Committee and chairman of the Sierra Maestra National Park Committee, delivered the opening speech. He highlighted the role of mountainous areas in Latin America as meeting points for various cultures and nationalities. He said the development achieved by these areas in Cuba has been the result of the Turquino Plan.

TANA Meeting Opens; Headquarters Move to Havana

FL2306210888 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] The meeting of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America [TANA] opened today at the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions to the strains of the Cuban national anthem. The headquarters of TANA, which since its foundation on 21 September 1981 were located in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, thus moves to the Cuban chapter, whose president is Moncada heroine Melba Hernandez.

Dr Guillermo Toriello, a distinguished Guatemalan intellectual and president of TANA, read a profound analysis of the current political situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the world in general. He also thanked the Cuban Government for its generous gesture of solidarity and support in accepting to serve as TANA's headquarters.

This afternoon the conferees will lay a wreath at the foot of the monument to national hero Jose Marti on Revolution Square. They will also examine the report on TANA's work in these past few years. The meeting will last until 25 June.

Late Report: Castro Greets Ortega Upon Arrival

FL2706161188 [Editorial Report] Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1602 GMT on 27 June carries a live report from the Jose Marti Airport on the arrival of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. The announcer reports that Ortega decends the steps of a Cubana de Aviacion airplane and is greeted by Cuban President Fidel Castro.

The crowd shouts "Viva Nicaragua! Viva Cuba! Viva President Daniel Ortega! Viva Fidel!," says the announcer.

The announcer also reports that "comrades from Radio Nicaragua are also present at the airport to broadcast live this beautiful welcoming ceremony."

The ceremony begins at 1603 GMT with the band playing the Cuban national anthem, followed by the Nicaraguan national anthem. The live report ends at 1605 GMT.

Dominican Republic

Foreign Exchange Banks Closed 'Temporarily'

PA2406153288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1541 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Santo Domingo, 24 Jun (EFE)—All the banks dealing in foreign exchange in the Dominican Republic have been closed and their installations are being guarded by soldiers by order of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank.

At the same time, the Central Bank's Monetary Board has asked President Joaquin Balaguer to have the national police prevent the sale of dollars in the streets.

Roberto Saladin, governor of the Central Bank, said that this decision was made to conduct a study to reorganize the country's foreign exchange system.

"The banks that violate the temporary closure of their establishments could have their licenses revoked," Saladin said. The measure also seeks to have the Central Bank regulate the foreign currency rate, wh ch yesterday closed at 8 pesos per dollar, the lowest rate for the peso to date.

Saladin warned that the only banks authorized to trade in U.S. currency starting today are the commercial banks, which will adhere to the 7.06 pesos per dollar buying rate and 7.08 pesos per dollar selling rate.

The National Council of Businessmen supports the decision made by the Central Bank to temporarily suspend the operations of foreign exchange banks and street vendors in order to control the excessive rise of the U.S. currency.

Balaguer Orders Cooperation

PA2406180088 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1601 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Santo Domingo, 24 June (REUTER)—The foreign exchange banks were closed today by order of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank. [passage omitted]

Rafael Bellow Andino, secretary general of the Presidency, said that President Joaquin Balaguer ordered the Armed Forces, the police, and the National Department

of Investigations (DNI)—the main intelligence corps of the country—to cooperate as much as possible to enable monetary authorities to implement the measure. [passage omitted]

Economists consulted by some newspapers have criticized the Central Bank's measure and have warned that this might lead to a free market in which the dollar will reach even higher levels. [passage omitted]

Spokesmen for the exchange houses have said that the government measure affects approximately 2,000 employees of the exchange houses.

Concern Expressed About Measure

FL2406225288 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 2202 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Santiago—The president of the Santiago Miguel Abreu Foundation has said that the closing of the exchange banks as ordered by the government will further complicate the country's monetary and exchange situation.

Dr (Julian Ramea Cur) said that with this measure the [words indistinct] authorities will help the same economic groups that are benefiting from the crisis.

The former president of the Santiago Lawyers Association said that the closing of banks and exchange houses is a stupid measure on the part of the government, and will not resolve the problem at all.

According to Dr (Ramea Cur), the only ones who will benefit from this are the commercial banks that are the property of Dominican institutions with lots of capital. The president of the Santiago Miguel Abreu Foundation alleges that this social and economic class is the one that extracts millions of dollars in [word indistinct] income which they deposit in foreign banks.

Dr (Ramea Cur) later said that the measure closing the exchange banks [words indistinct]. He said: Nothing more has been done than to wash the face of the country's shameless exchange situation. They have exchanged the [words indistinct] and left chaos in its place, he added. [passage omitted including indistinct portion]

Inespre Head Supports Closure

FL2406233288 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 2156 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] San Juan de la Maguana—Dr Sterling Vazquez, executive director of the National Institute of Price Stabilization, Inespre, is supporting the temporary closure of the exchange banks as ordered by the Monetary Board.

The official said that the (?separation) from the dollar is [words indistinct]. Sterling Vazquez added that some sectors linked to trading dollars are staging an opposition that [words indistinct] President Joaquin Balaguer.

He said that the Central Bank and the government should, at all costs, maintain the closing of the exchange banks. Sterling Vazquez called on the (?bankers) to support the historic plan issued by the government of President Balaguer.

Haiti's Manigat Leaves for United States

PA2406161788 Paris AFP in Spanish 1521 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Santo Domingo, 24 Jun (AFP)—Deposed Haitian President Leslie Manigat left Santo Domingo's airport at 1035 (1435 GMT) today for Miami.

Manigat boarded a small private aircraft accompanied by his wife, Mirlande; his daughter Beatrice; and two or three other unidentified persons, according to radio station reports here.

Manigat arrived in Santo Domingo after he was deported by the Haitian military, which had overthrown him. He was immediately given "political asylum" by the Dominican Government.

Further Reports on Manigat Remarks to Press

FL2306173688 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Mr Manigat has said that he will spend a few days in Santo Domingo before attending, beginning 28 June, a meeting in Rome of important political leaders from 54 countries, where he will talk about the Haitian situation.

In Caracas, the Christian Democratic Association of America announced Tuesday that Mr Manigat will go to Miami on Sunday. Then he will attend an international meeting of Christian Democrats in Rome from 28 to 30 June.

According to further information from Santo Domingo, Manigat said it was Colonel Prosper Avril who went to get General Namphy, in the absence of the commander of the Presidential Guard. Manigat said that he spent the rest of the night at the military airport in Port-au-Prince. Once he was on the plane, he was informed that they were taking him to the Dominican Republic.

Manigat said General Namphy has never believed in this business of the Constitution. He even said General Namphy had told him personally that he has never even read the Constitution.

Manigat also said he feels no bitterness against anyone, despite what has happened. He said he will spend some time in Santo Domingo, after he participates in the meeting we told you about, with the leaders who are in solidarity with Haiti in favor of democracy.

He also said at the Concorde Hotel, where he gave the press conference, that the biggest weapon used by the military to overthrow the government was this business

of insecurity. He spoke of the round-up carried out by the Dessalines Barracks in the past few weeks. He also said that was why General Namphy asked for Colonel Paul to be transferred.

Manigat said the coup was well-planned. He said he was betrayed.

Does Manigat think there are other countries behind the coup? He said he doesn't have enough information to be able to say that, but he castigated the U.S. press.

Other reports from the Dominican Republic say that Pena Gomez went to visit Manigat on the evening of Monday, 20 June. Manigat was also visited by General (Manuel Antonio Lachapelle Suero), head of the Dominican Republic's National Directorate of Investigations, a kind of secret police in the Dominican Republic. [passage omitted]

[Begin Manigat recording] I should write an article on this. They announced over television that they had seized power, and then they surrounded my house. And then at 0200, oh-oh!. A big ruckus!

They attacked the house. A military attack, as if it were a fortress! I was in a normal house. A few friends were with me. They attacked the house. They didn't even ask us to surrender. Normally, you must ask the people to come out and surrender. They didn't even do this. You have to summon the people three times. They didn't do it.

They just showed up and came into the yard with tanks. Yes, tanks! Tanks came into the yard and aimed at the house. And then they began shooting bursts of machine-gun fire. And then suddenly they threw a (?bomb) on the roof of the house. The house shook. The windows shattered. At that point, we yelled out to them, saying: But we are not resisting! If you want us, we'll come out. They continued shooting.

Finally, when they stopped shooting, we decided we had better go downstairs so they wouldn't continue shooting, or do anything weird—because they would have destroyed the house, killing us inside it. Maybe (?that's what they were trying to do). I don't know this for sure, but I wonder, because normally they should have asked us to come out. That is what they should have done, but they didn't do it. They just started shooting at us, shooting at the house, right away. We had to lie down on the floor.

(?And when I) say this, I can also affirm it. I am a man who respects the truth, and I will continue to respect the truth, even [words indistinct]. From the moment we came downstairs with our hands over our heads, one after another, they lined us up and searched us to make sure we weren't carrying weapons. From then on, until they took me to the military airfield, they behaved courteously toward me, my wife, my child, and my wife's family. (Pierre Rigaud) was there too.

However, there were some 20 people with me, and when they took me to the airfield, they did not take these people as well. They took them somewhere else. I didn't even know this. When I realized this, I asked about them. A man who was there serving as a go-between between us and the government, (Tony Saint-Pierre), when he saw that I was worried about this, and when I asked if I was leaving alone with my family, said to me: Mr President, I give you my word that as soon as I get my instructions, I am going to get them released. They will be released as soon as you are gone, right away.

That is what (Tony Saint-Pierre) told me. He gave me his word on this. So the most recent information I have on the situation is that we were given the guarantee that the people who were with us would be released. And people say it seems one of them has been freed. I don't know. But in any case, they will make it possible for them to leave.

But unfortunately, yesterday afternoon I learned [words indistinct] told me that they were still in prison and that they are in Fort Dimanche. I heard this from abroad this afternoon. They told me they were in Fort Dimanche. Now, when I heard this, I was truly shocked. It isn't that I didn't think they were capable of lying to me; I just didn't think they could do it that easily. After all, (Tony Saint-Pierre) gave me his word that they would be released. I am astonished [words indistinct].

I have given international agencies and foreign governments all their names, so that their release can be sought, because these men who were with me in my house left the house at the same time as I. We were in the same convoy. They took me one place and they took them somewhere else. We must ask for their release, because they had made a commitment and they were with me, in the same circumstances. They must be released, so that those who want to leave may leave.

I didn't know they were going to attack militarily like that. Listen, you have to understand the state of mind they were in. To show up and surround the house is normal. But to start shooting! Normally, you should have shown up and issued your summons, and I would have said: O.K.

We were not determined to resist. [passage indistinct] Nor did we fire a single shot. That would have given them a pretext to (?kill us).

I told this to the people in my house with me from the beginning. I asked many of them to go, but they refused. They wanted to stay with me to the end. I said: If you stay, be careful. I gave a formal order. You will not shoot. We will not resist.

This is one of my principles. Not only are we not violent; we ourselves have never acted violently. On the contrary, we were against violence in Haiti. [words indistinct] you know that! And we said, in particular, to be careful. Given the disparity of the forces on the scene, [words

indistinct], the armored vehicles that appeared in [words indistinct], if we try to resist, they will kill us all and simply say that it was because we shot at them. So we will not give them the slightest pretext, because we want to preserve life. People's lives are important to us. We, unlike others, do not think lives are unimportant. On the contrary, we appreciate life. Thus, we decided to surrender peaceably, in order to show clearly that we are not into violence.

Fortunately, that is what happened, and that is why I am now abroad. But [words indistinct] the people who were with me.

I am asking everyone, [repeats himself] everyone, to exert pressure both inside and outside Haiti to make them release the people who were inside my house, and everyone they arrested. I have been told that they arrested others, and that they released some of them later, but that they kept others. We must ask for the release of the ones they kept.

This gives me greater experience, a better knowledge of men. But before I condemn someone, I must hear his side of the story. (?Under the current circumstances), I cannot hear their side of the story. They know why they took such a step.

There are people who have spoken of betrayal. It does appear to be a betrayal. When a man is on one side and goes over to the other side, that constitutes a betrayal. But, I would have to listen to their side of the story to find out why they did it. I would have to find out what was going on in their heads. I don't know this.

You know, you might think me odd, but it is one of my principles to note things, before rushing to condemn someone. Yes, I have indeed noted that they changed sides. I have indeed noted that they went along with my adversary. I have indeed noted this. Yes, [words indistinct], and I have learned a lesson from this. Now, as for the rest, I'll tell you later. I'll tell you later, in the future, exactly what happened, and what is going to happen.

But one thing is certain. [words indistinct] nice little Haitian proverb that says: Once the zombie has tasted salt, he will never go back to being a zombie. [end recording]

Coup Result of Power Struggle

FL2406234988 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Report on a news conference by former Haitian President Leslie Manigat in Santo Domingo on 23 June]

[Excerpts] After being overthrown by the military on the night of Sunday, 19 June, Mr Leslie Francois Manigat held a second press conference yesterday in the Dominican Republic. [passage omitted]

Former President Manigat met with the press this morning at Santo Domingo Hotel. In a paper he distributed to journalists, he explained what happened in Haiti. In his opinion, the coup d'etat was something that had been prepared in advance against the democratic process in Haiti.

General Namphy himself had said that he personally did not believe in this democracy.

The coup was the result of a struggle between civilian power and the military to take over leadership of the country. Otherwise, democracy would not be possible.

Mr Manigat said that another reason his government fell was that he tried to effect certain administrative reforms and fight corruption and contraband. Gen Namphy and his friends had publicly criticized his government for this, and Namphy had not been willing to stand by and watch certain friends of his, whom he himself had put in a number of key positions in the public administration and who were corrupt, be fired. That is how they came to hate the Manigat government.

Mr Manigat gave as an example the incident in Saint-Marc, where an armed group openly opposed the installation of the Saint-Marc customs director. The military commander of Saint-Marc himself, Captain Ravix, organized that demonstration. The vehicles of the people engaging in contraband were (?inspected) inside the barracks itself. Captain Ravix gets $100 per vehicle.

Manigat also said that Gen Namphy knew these demonstrations were being organized. He said his government also clashed with the military over the climate of insecurity, which the military orchestrated and augmented daily to destabilize his government. What were they trying to do? They were trying to blame the government.

On several occasions, the government was shocked to discover that the people carrying out these actions were members of the Armed Forces or Criminal Investigations Department detectives. He gave as an example the 11 bandits the Dessalines Barracks men had arrested. Ten of these men were members of the Armed Forces. As of that moment, the general decided to reshuffle the Army.

Also, 2 days before he was overthrown, these same Dessalines Barracks soldiers caught the leader of a terrorist group that operated in Petit Goave. He is called (Ti-Puce). This bandit leader confirmed that he was an agent of Gen Namphy, and that he had been paid to carry out this terrorist activity in Petit Goave.

During his press conference, Mr Manigat warned journalists against making two erroneous interpretations. First, the decision he made was neither in favor of nor against Jean-Claude Paul but was, rather, a question of principle. Regarding Colonel Paul's implication in drug-trafficking, he said he had always told the Americans to submit the [words indistinct] to him and he would have them examined in Haiti, and if they were found valid, he

would do what was right. And he always showed he was willing to cooperate in the struggle against drugs, but he didn't have the means with which to do it.

Second, regarding the Haitian people's apparent indifference to the coup d'etat, Manigat said the Haitian people learned a few things from everything that has happened. They are keeping their cool. They are a people capable of running in the streets and they are also capable of destruction. However, they also know [words indistinct] exactly who and what they are up against. They do not want to expose themselves but the fact that they are not running in the streets does not mean they sanction what happened.

Mr Manigat thinks that things will have to change in Haiti, because the Haitian people really want a change. They have been showing this since 7 February 1986.

Mr Manigat will return to Haiti. How? He thinks there are organizations in Haiti that are slowly developing. He himself is going to travel to explain, internationally, what happened.

For the time being, he has not as yet asked any country for political asylum, nor has he as yet decided where he will go. After several trips, he will see. But several countries have already opened their doors wide to him.

Mr Manigat thinks this coup d'etat is a very tough thing for the Haitian people, and that Gen Namphy has effected a coup against Haiti's interests, because the country will have problems at the international level. We have already seen how several countries have condemned this coup d'etat.

Mr Manigat said that the American position vis-a-vis his government also influenced the plot because although the Americans gave him their political support, the aid cut-off remained in effect and he had been unable to start up a series of projects to stay the Haitian people's impatience.

He said that upon taking power he had found the country to be more than 80 percent dependent on U.S. aid. This is serious.

Several Latin American governments have already expressed support for ex-President Manigat. He says he himself is not in favor of a military intervention in Haiti because he thinks the Haitian people are capable of solving their own problems. However, he criticized foreign journalists, for example, from THE NEW YORK TIMES, who insist on explaining everything that happened in the light of the Col Jean-Claude Paul problem alone. He says this is false, because there is much division within the Army.

There are military men who want to restore the Army, an institution which has been befouled, to its former state, and they are opposed to the existence of corrupt military men in the Army.

Manigat says: You must not be fooled by the apparent unity you are seeing here. They formed a coalition at the last minute, in order to serve a number of interests, both civilian and military.

Manigat also distributed a list of the names of those arrested on the day of the coup.

Here are the names: Pierre Rigaud, Robert Benodin, Mireille Benodin, Pierre-Richard Pierre, Jacques Douyon, Jean-Yves Noel, Lionel Desgranges, (Marcel Lescouflaire) or (Narcesse Lescouflaire), (Sammy Williams), Frantz Jean-Louis, Yvon Simeon, Jean Hiram, (Reynold Ariste), (Joseph Maxime), Roger Savain, Roger Savain Jr., Harry Carrenard, and (Roger Lucien).

This is the essence of what was said in a press conference held by Mr Leslie Manigat at the Santo Domingo Hotel in the Dominican Republic.

Manigat's Daughter on Arrests

FL2406153288 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 1600 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] President Manigat's daughter Beatrice has reportedly told AFP in Santo Domingo that in addition to former Information Minister Roger Savain and the head of former President Manigat's personal guard, 15 other people were arrested Sunday night at the president's residence in Musseau.

In a telephone conversation from the hotel where the Manigat family has taken refuge, Beatrice Manigat reportedly gave the names of those arrested. She said that among them are: Roger Savain, the former information minister's son; Frantz Jean-Louis, head of the former president's personal guard; Harry Carrenard; Yvon Simeon; Pierre-Richard Pierre; (Joseph Maxime); the (William) family; Robert Benodin; Mireille Benodin; Lionel Desgranges; Pierre Rigaud, whose house they ransacked; Roger Lucien; (Reynald Harris); Jean Hiram; and Jacques Douyon.

These are the people that Beatrice Manigat said had been arrested in addition to the former minister of information and the head of deposed President Leslie Manigat's personal guard.

Also, Mr (Rodney Marcellus), who was the director for mass education at the Ministry of Information, was said to have been arrested Sunday while in the company of Manigat. Mr (Marcellus) has reportedly been in the hands of the military since Manigat's overthrow.

We have also had reports that Mr (Serge Mastinot), who was apparently an administrator from the Ministry of Information, has also been in the hands of the military since Sunday night.

Haiti

Col Jean-Claude Paul Returns CATH Vehicle

FL2406014988 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 1600 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Exactly 1 year after the military raided the headquarters of the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers [CATH], they returned the Lada vehicle they confiscated from the CATH on 22 June 1987.

Colonel Jean-Claude Paul, the commander of the Dessalines Barracks, personally delivered the vehicle yesterday, said CATH secretary general Yves Antoine Richard. Richard said he was very happy to get the vehicle back, despite the state in which it was returned. The vehicle is not in great shape.

The CATH still has not recovered some office material and approximately $1,800 dollars that the military has in its possession, said Richard. [passage omitted]

Member of Union Affiliated With RNDP Arrested

FL2406210988 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] We have learned that Mr (Renaud Louis) was arrested at his residence at Source Matelas on Tuesday, 21 June. He was a member of the Union of Haitian Workers, which is affiliated with the RDNP [Assembly of Progressive National Democrats, the political party of deposed President Manigat].

Candidate Salinas Campaign Remarks Reported
PA2606204788 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] At a meeting with Federal District campaign aides, Carlos Salinas de Gortari said that the PRI has the capacity to govern and transform Mexico with responsible changes. Salinas de Gortari, PRI presidential candidate, also pledged to fight the country's social problems with firm actions and not with lamentations. He said that if he becomes president, he will unite all Mexicans in the effort to promote justice and social welfare.

[Salinas de Gortari] "I reject any more sacrifices on the part of the Mexicans [applause], because the crisis has already lowered their living standards excessively. We will turn this situation around. [applause] We must make an additional effort to improve the plight of all Mexicans and to reduce the existing imbalances."

The PRI candidate reiterated his commitments to the Mexican people and referred to the principal challenges.

[Salinas de Gortari] "In the face of the economic challenges, the continuity of our democratic state calls for profound changes and decisive progress in Mexico's economic life. We will again attempt to achieve moderate, sustained growth, without inflation, to create the jobs that we need, so that the wages we earn will truly be sufficient for all Mexican families. [applause]"

He said that the foreign debt will not be an obstacle to the country's growth and that firm negotiations without confrontations will be maintained, while at the same time demanding that creditors be frank and accept the real value of the foreign debt. He added that the creditors must also accept their share of the responsibility for the foreign debt problem.

[Salinas de Gortari] "We will continue the indispensable task of opening up our economy, and we will secure, in exchange, greater access to new markets, and produce more and better exports for sale abroad. I reiterate, however, that if the servicing of the debt impedes economic recovery, which is indispensable to generate the jobs demanded by the Mexican youths, we will not service the foreign debt. [applause]"

He pledged to maintain and strengthen Mexico's independence and sovereignty, which, he said, demand not only the defense of national territory, but also a great capacity to participate in the world transformation.

[Salinas de Gortari] "Modernization awaits us, as does a new imaginative era that will offer Mexicans new jobs. I will accomplish this as a result of the voters' mandate, which I am convinced I will receive from the citizens this coming Wednesday, 6 July. As president, I will fulfill the promises I am making today as a candidate. [applause]"

In promising to pay greater attention to the countryside, he said he would support small- and medium-sized enterprise in their efforts to incorporate new technology into their businesses to help them compete more efficiently in foreign markets.

He reiterated that he would carry out an active, coherent, effective, and determined foreign policy to achieve great advances in the commercial, financial, and technological sectors, while increasing Mexico's presence in international forums.

[Salinas de Gortari] "But we will always do so with the dignity bequeathed to us by history and with conviction in the firmness of our nationalism. [applause]"

In view of the effusive demonstrations of support from the PRI members, Salinas de Gortari called for the creation of a new political culture.

[Salinas de Gortari] "[We need] a new political culture to renew the party institutions, beginning with the PRI, as the vanguard and the head of those transformations. [applause]"

In conclusion, he appealed to the citizens to vote in order to effect a responsible and profound change.

El Salvador

Rey Prendes Challenges Chavez Mena Nomination

PA2406174688 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Today at a meeting with his followers, Christian Democratic Party [PDC] leader Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes decided that the PDC's internal struggle will be taken all the way to the Supreme Court of Justice, where he will file an appeal.

[Rey Prendes] "Neither with the pressure of the government, the pressure of the U.S. Embassy, nor the pressure of [words indistinct] were they capable of honestly winning a convention from Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes. [applause]"

At a meeting of national PDC leaders presided over by the members of the Political Committee who were not present at Chavez Mena's convention, Rey Prendes decided to take the legal battle for his presidential candidacy to the Supreme Court of Justice. The decision could result in stopping the party's election campaign until the court makes a decision on the internal struggle for a presidential candidate.

[Rey Prendes] "This could mean [words indistinct] those who are going to destroy the democratic plan of this country, those who are going to reverse the political and social changes we have made. This means the possibility that there will be an increase in human rights violations in our country. Therefore, the decision...

[Speaker, interrupting] "On this we depend somewhat on other parties. We depend somewhat on political and legal resolutions, and there could be others, such as those that I believe [words indistinct] the Central Elections Council, which apparently [words indistinct] 300,000 reasons that were not challenged and all the arguments that were submitted legally."

Nevertheless, [words indistinct] the national leadership headed by Rey Prendes decided to continue the struggle at the Supreme Court of Justice to stop Chavez Mena's candidacy. Judging from the spirit of those present at the meeting, any other decision would have been unlikely.

[Rey Prendes] "It could be that Chavez Mena will be the candidate and might become president, but [words indistinct] PDC, and I will never work for someone [words indistinct] [shouts from crowd] the rigged conventions and in the [words indistinct] irrational use of resources, which we never requested. We never asked to participate in the last election campaign, because if we had asked for it, we might still have a majority in the Legislative Assembly. I really feel that I would like to abandon politics."

At the meeting, the U.S. Embassy, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and the government itself were accused of promoting Chavez Mena's candidacy. It was said that funds from those three sources were used to manipulate the departmental congresses and conventions to change the delegates to the national convention and the composition of the party leadership in favor of Chavez Mena. Rey Prendes said the party has reached a very critical point from which it will be difficult to recover.

[Rey Prendes] "It is not possible for one group to trample another. What is worse, the smaller group, the group that has no support among the membership and the party leadership, cannot trample, buy out, or pressure the majority of the people who are the authentic Christian Democrats. This is not conceivable and is not a good platform to go out and use in an election campaign. The PDC, which is the guarantee of the democratic process and of the continuity of the democratic process, has to begin at home to demonstrate that it is democratic and that things are done democratically here.

[Reporter] "Ambassador Corr says that the United States does not support Chavez Mena and that you are wrong.

[Rey Prendes] "Perhaps he is right. Perhaps the support comes only from Ambassador Corr and not the United States and the State Department. Perhaps it is personal support from Ambassador Corr, who knows he has done everything possible for Fidel Chavez Mena to become the PDC's presidential candidate."

Going to the Supreme Court of Justice is the legal way to solve the PDC's internal conflict, although it is not necessarily based on a political agreement. If the appeal is not accepted by the court, Rey Prendes' opposition ends. If the appeal is accepted by the court, the conflict will go to a different arena, where the solution to conflicts no longer depends on the party's officials.

Castillo Supports Chavez

PA2406220088 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Rodolfo Antonio Castillo Claramount, acting Salvadoran president and secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party, has said that Fidel Chavez Mena's candidacy will permit the reunification of that political group. He added that Chavez Mena's nomination was legal, correct, and [words indistinct] of peace.

[Begin Castillo recording] The [party's] convention unanimously elected Chavez Mena as a presidential candidate. It was a decision made by the party, which yesterday began marching toward its victory in 1989. It has also begun a reorganization process, and of course what is important in this process is the attitude and process of incorporation. The party has opportunities for everyone. [end recording]

Although it is known in political circles that followers of Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes—the other party's faction—will file a writ of amparo before the Supreme Court of Justice, Castillo Claramount said that he is sure the court will reject it. He added that he does not believe Rey Prendes will go that far, because in his opinion that would hurt the party along with Rey Prendes' image as a good politician.

[Begin Castillo recording] I believe such an action will not prosper in court. I also feel that Rey Prendes should think twice before taking that step so as to not assume an attitude that would hinder and obstruct a party decision. That would not be best for the party. The party is not simply one group or the other; it is a national entity. The party reflects national determination and support; therefore, we cannot ignore those expectations and realities. Definitely, no one has a right to do that. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Acevedo: Summit Depends on Duarte's Health

PA2408203388 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1900 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Today Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo announced that the Central American presidents' summit, tentatively scheduled for the 1st week of August in San Salvador, depends on President Napoleon Duarte's health. The final date of the 2-day meeting is pending and will be announced at a later date because everything depends on President Duarte's health, Acevedo said at a news conference. The foreign minister feels that the summit in honor of President Duarte will be decisive, because very important joint decisions for peace and democracy in the region will be made.

From his bed at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, where he is recovering from surgery for liver cancer, Duarte announced his decision to return to El Salvador between 5 and 8 July to resume his duties. Acevedo also explained that the Esquipulas II Executive Commission, comprising the region's five foreign ministers, agreed during the brief meeting this week in Tegucigalpa to meet again on 11 and 12 July in Managua to prepare the agenda for the Central American presidents' summit.

[Begin Acevedo recording] We want to give a new impulse to the multilateral effort Central America is making. We want the presidents to clearly tell the foreign ministers what they must do in concrete and specific terms so the process can continue in a more understandable and expeditious manner, avoiding the stumbling blocks we have faced along the way, such as the Honduras-Nicaragua issue. We need very clear messages from the presidents. They should summarize and review the achievements made and the efforts that have failed. Then they should establish specific and concrete goals for the Executive Commission so we can move within a clear and specific framework free of the stumbling blocks that, I repeat, have emerged and have even created a need for a presidential summit. This summit will allow the leaders to revitalize the process, which is currently blocked and stagnated.

I believe it would be advantageous for Nicaragua to withdraw the [International Court of Justice—ICJ] suit, because in a way it is counterproductive for a negotiating process within a framework of a political agreement such as the Executive Commission and Esquipulas II. There is a contradiction between the political negotiation of Esquipulas II and a judicial court, a court where two countries go to fight a fight—pardon the redundancy—which is quite different from political negotiations. I believe it is important that the suit be withdrawn from the political scene, because it is negatively affecting the negotiating process. Two parallel methods cannot coexist, because we are acting in good faith in following the political method created by Esquipulas II; the other alternative would be for us all to go and fight at the ICJ and level mutual charges at each other. We can no longer work in two places, wearing very serious faces in one and smiling in the other. We cannot show two faces for the same situation.

I understand, from the private talk I held with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Madrigal Nieto, that the FMLN guerrillas' position is to ask the Salvadoran Government to continue the efforts and dialogue. I believe that what we are seeing in El Salvador is a plan for a national dialogue, and we should wait and see the results. The church has proposed a forum to achieve a national consensus. The Legislative Assembly has pointed out a path, which is an institutionalized path that will propose a minimal political platform for dialogue. Meanwhile, the government is also making direct efforts with the political parties to create a consensus to lead to negotiations and dialogue. [end recording]

Guatemala

Cerezo on Replacement of Government Minister

PA2506164788 Paris AFP in Spanish 0021 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Jun (AFP)—Guatemalan Government Minister Juan Jose Rodil Peralta will be removed from his post on 15 July 1988. President Vinicio Cerezo made this announcement today amid rumors that the decision was due to pressure from the Army and the ruling Guatemalan Christian Democracy (DCG).

Cerezo told the press that Rodil Peralta will return to private life but will continue cooperating with the government, because he is "an efficient and principled man."

However, the minister himself said that the president had "decided to remove me from the post because the goals for which I was appointed have been met."

He will be replaced by DCG Deputy Roberto Valle Valdizan, who represented the government in the first round of talks held with the guerrillas last October in Madrid.

Since the aborted coup attempt of 11 May, there have been rumors of the imminent departure of the government minister, who has been the target of criticism from some military sectors.

Rodil Peralta has been accused by a clandestine group called "Officers of the Mountain" and by some former Armed Forces officers of having drafted a plan to strengthen the police at the expense of the Army, a charge the minister has denied.

Political sources say that the DCG has exerted pressure to gain control over this ministry and that, with the exception of the Defense Ministry, all the cabinet posts will be in the hands of Christian Democrats or their supporters.

Meanwhile, Cerezo denied that Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera will be replaced soon, but he conceded that he could be replaced at some point in the future since several party members have asked that Cabrera confine himself to his activities as secretary general of the DCG.

Congress Decrees Amnesty for Political Crimes

PA2506022688 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Jun 88 p 92

[Text] Yesterday the Congress of the Republic decreed amnesty for all people who have in any way perpetrated political crimes or related common crimes through 23 Jun.

Decree No 32-88 was issued by the full session yesterday. It will enter into force on the date of its publication in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

All people who had committed any crime against domestic political order, public order, or social peace will receive amnesty.

People who have not been tried and who wish to receive amnesty can go to the courts, where an affidavit will be written containing the circumstances of the granting of amnesty. It will also contain the expressed recognition that the person receiving amnesty is fully entitled to the rights contained in the Constitution of the Republic.

The person receiving amnesty will be released at once and will be entitled to all rights dealing with life, security, and justice and other rights contained in international agreements that have precedence over internal laws.

If the person who has received amnesty has weapons, ammunition, war materiel, or any other material object of a crime, he must hand them over or indicate where they are so they can be confiscated.

Deputy on Coup Participants

PA2506193688 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Deputy Otto Cerezo has said that the political amnesty recently approved by Congress does not cover exclusively the military who participated in the 11 May attempted coup. Commission members from the Congress announced that amnesty was approved by the various political parties with the stipulation that it be granted without restrictions. Otto Cerezo added that the deputies were never influenced by the 11 May events when approving total amnesty—believe it or not, listeners.

Credit for the amnesty law for political and related common crimes can be claimed by Mario Castejon, the only civilian implicated in the attempted coup, Otto Cerezo added. Cerezo concluded by saying: If Castejon wants to, he can request amnesty right now. He is free to do so. If he does not request amnesty, the trial cannot be suspended by the court, which has been notified of his case.

Cerezo is a legislator from Chiquimula and a member of the GDC [Guatemalan Christian Democracy].

Honduras

Callejas Named as PNH Presidential Candidate

PA2606223488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2121 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 26 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Today Leonardo Callejas, top leader of the conservative National Party of Honduras [PNH], was named presidential candidate at a ceremony held in Choluteca, southern Honduras.

The members of the National Party, the second largest political force in the country, are mostly gathered around Callejas, who thus far only has had Oswaldo Ramos Soto, current rector of the National Autonomous University, as an opponent within his party. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Ortega To Visit Cuba at Castro Invitation

PA2406133088 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1242 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] President Daniel Ortega will be decorated with the Jose Marti Order, which Cuba grants to chiefs of state for their struggles in favor of peace. PRENSA LATINA reported from Havana for "Extra" that according to official sources, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega will visit Cuba within the next few days at the invitation of Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

During the official, friendly, working visit, President Ortega will have a busy agenda, including visits at the highest level and tours of areas of socioeconomic interest.

He will also be decorated with the Jose Marti Order, which is granted by Cuba to Cubans and foreign citizens and to government leaders and heads of state for their great deeds working toward peace and humanity.

The agenda also includes a visit to the Isle of Youth, where Nicaraguan youths are studying.

Ortega Tactical Retreat to Masaya Speech

PA2506013688 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0006 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega commemorating the 9th anniversary of the "tactical retreat to Masaya" at the Eduardo Contreras Square in Managua—live]

[Text] Good evening, comrades. Today we commemorate once more this combative and heroic retreat that reminds us of the struggle against the Somozist dictatorship. We will begin this retreat at a time when we face an enemy that is more powerful than Somoza and the National Guard. That enemy is the U.S. Government. Our enemy does not accept our democratic and revolutionary process. We, the Nicaraguans, have not relinquished and will not relinquish the defense of our revolutionary process.

Therefore, we participate in this retreat today to honor the comrades who died struggling against the Somoza dictatorship. We also honor the comrades who have shed their blood defending the revolution. We will begin this march... [changes thought] We will walk a few kilometers until sundown or until dawn, with the conviction and assurance that our revolutionary process will never be destroyed.

We will walk those kilometers in support of the Nicaraguan people's will to find peace though negotiation. We will walk those kilometers demanding that the U.S. Government cease all types of aggression against Nicaragua and advocate and support the negotiating process—meaning the peace-seeking process that began in Sapoa—which the U.S. Government, itself, wants to annihilate. The same ones who assassinated Sandino now want to kill all the Nicaraguan people.

We will also walk those kilometers to prove that we will defend the economic measures that we have implemented and will continue to implement to defend the people's revolution. We will walk those kilometers in solidarity with our brother peasants, workers, and fighters of our Army who are at the frontlines prepared to reject U.S. aggression and crush the mercenary forces if they dare violate the cease-fire and attack the peasant population en masse, as they have in the past.

We will walk those kilometers full of faith and confidence in the future, defending the Nicaraguan people's right to peace. We will walk those kilometers with the usual firmness—the firmness with which we have had to traverse many years of our history, facing the U.S. aggression and fighting against the U.S. aggression—and with the moral strength of our heroic people, Sandino, Zeledon, and Carlos Fonseca.

Brothers, we begin the march this evening to tell all Nicaraguans that the people in Managua are also at the vanguard in the defense of our revolutionary process. [applause] Our rallying cry of "Free fatherland" becomes stronger today given our material and economic problems, and given the risk of losing our lives—a risk that is faced every day by the Nicaraguans who live in the war zones and the brothers who are sent to the frontlines. Given all those problems, it is necessary, today more than ever, to raise our fists and Sandino's red and black flag to defend the fatherland until we win or die!

For a dignified peace! [crowd shouts: "Free fatherland or death!"] For a dignified peace! [crowd shouts: "Free fatherland or death!"] Let us now begin this march with our rallying march of free fatherland! [crowd shouts: "Or death!"]

H. Ortega Proposes Miami Meeting With Contras

PA2506001988 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2321 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Letter from Defense Minister General Humberto Ortega to counterrevolutionary leader Alfredo Cesar—dated 24 June]

[Text] Managua, 24 June 1988

Mr Alfredo Cesar, director of the counterrevolution:

In a letter addressed to you on 19 June, I proposed to the counterrevolutionary Directorate the continuation of negotiations on 26-29 June in Managua to achieve a permanent cease-fire. Today, 24 June, we are only 2 days away from the date proposed to hold such a high-level meeting, and we have yet to receive any reply from you; instead, you have only made public statements rejecting that proposed meeting.

In view of this, on behalf of the Nicaraguan Government, I state the following:

1. The Nicaraguan Government reiterates the offer to hold the high-level meeting on 26-29 June in Managua. If this offer is accepted, it must be confirmed by you to the witnesses by today at the latest.

2. If you decide not to attend this meeting, I propose, on behalf of the Nicaraguan Government, that an urgent preparatory meeting be held on 28-29 June in Miami to discuss everything related to the suspension of offensive military operations, which concludes on 30 June, and the possibility of holding a new high-level meeting in July to continue the negotiations on a permanent cease-fire. The Nicaraguan Government would be represented at this preparatory meeting by Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco and Dr Paul Riechler.

Finally, I wish to point out that 5 days have passed since 19 June, the date when you, in the name of the counterrevolutionary Directorate, promised to release 66 of the kidnapped individuals you hold. This promise has not been kept. I must state that I hope you will include 2d Lieutenant Helmut Dagoberto Heller Maravilla, in accordance with the verbal commitment you made when you acknowledged you are also holding him. The Nicaraguan Government demands the fulfillment of this commitment immediately.

Sincerely,

[Signed] Defense Minister General Humberto Ortega Saavedra

Vice President Ramirez on Talks With Contras

FL2406011888 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado was in our country for a few hours en route from Berlin to Managua. In remarks made to a journalist for this newscast, he referred to the recent break in talks between the Sandinist government and the counterrevolutionary leaders.

[Begin recording] [Ramirez] What is shown here is a systematic refusal to negotiate, to not arrive at concrete proposals. As soon as the Sapoa agreements were signed, the U.S. Government began to thwart, block, and boycott them. This was something they couldn't do before the agreements were signed because Mr Abrams and all the other secondary (officials) from the White House were surprised by the signing of these agreements. Since then, they have made an effort to keep these from functioning.

During the last meeting in Managua, after the Nicaraguan Government made a [words indistinct] proposal—which out of 34 points, 20 were approved—the counterrevolutionaries at the last minute pulled a foolish proposal out of their sleeves which was only intended to boycott the negotiations. No agreements were reached. They even refused to accept a commitment to cease offensive operations through 30 June as was proposed by the Nicaraguan Government.

[Reporter Pedro Martinez Munne] With all the remarks being made in the presidential campaign, do you think that a change in the U.S. administration could bring about a change in policy toward Nicaragua?

[Ramirez] We have been listening with hope to the Democratic presidential candidate, Mr Dukakis, who has said that the financing of the counterrevolution and U.S. interference—by leading and financing the counterrevolution—is illegal, immoral, and against the laws of the United States. We add that these actions are against international laws, as stated by the International Court of Justice.

We hope that a Democratic administration will have the good sense to immediately establish direct talks with Nicaragua. We are not afraid to sit down at the negotiating table with the U.S. Government and end this unjust, immoral, illegal war. [end recording]

D'Escoto on C.A. Foreign Ministers Meeting

PA2506023588 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Statement by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto on 23 June; place not given—recorded]

[Text] After my arrival in Tegucigalpa yesterday, the foreign ministers held a meeting. Generally, progress was not made. Honduras—through Costa Rican Foreign Minister Madrigal Nieto, who sees and will always see himself as the attorney in this Honduran cause—spent the entire morning arguing that I seem to be [words indistinct] and that I should stop because it is not that important. After all, he said, Honduras is going to comply with the agreements anyway.

I informed him of the deep, serious reasons Nicaragua has for not burying the mechanisms or the means of achieving a resolution, because abstaining from lodging the complaint would imply forever closing the court's access to the Honduran case. Honduras has introduced a claim to prevent Nicaragua from ever resorting to the International Court of Justice [ICJ]. I also told Madrigal Nieto that I did not understand why this bilateral issue, which had nothing to do with Esquipulas, was being discussed by the Executive Commission. It has nothing to do with Esquipulas.

Just then, we were informed that President Azcona was waiting for us, so we went to the presidential house to meet with him. It turned out to be a very important and interesting meeting; it made me feel very optimistic. Among other things, the president said my arrival statements had seemed a little strong to him, because Honduras had never planned to block the progress of the Executive Commission's work. He also said he could not understand why the Executive Commission was discussing this ICJ issue, which had nothing to do with Esquipulas. He said he would have signed the Esquipulas agreements even if President Ortega and he had not signed the agreement requesting a 3-month postponement. He could not understand why the foreign ministers were wasting time on that. Right there, in front of all the Central American foreign ministers, he instructed his own foreign minister to stop using the ICJ complaint as an excuse to discontinue progress in fulfilling the Executive Commission's tasks, the most important of which is to structure a mechanism to verify the agreements' fulfillment.

This is why I say I was optimistic when I left the meeting with the president. I thought progress would subsequently be made. Honduras had prepared a telex to be sent immediately to UN Secretary General Javier Perez

de Cuellar requesting that he contact the Spanish, Canadian, and FRG Governments requesting their participation in the task of verifying the Esquipulas security agreements; in other words, the nonuse of territory and nonsupport in any way of the insurrectional movements' security forces. Honduras presented this document, and I felt nothing would prevent the meeting from ending with the signature of that request, that telex to the UN secretary general. Everyone agreed it should be signed. It was passed to me first, and I signed it. There is the signature. It then went to the Honduran foreign minister, who refused to sign it despite what his president had said. He did not sign it. Once again, the score is three times at bat without a hit. This is what happened at the third meeting; we are at zero, unable to move because of this Honduran position, which is—and this is on record—contrary to what the Honduran president wants and has said. It is contrary to what the president instructed his foreign minister to do. Friends of the press, the situation with Honduras is unpleasant.

In Honduras, I was informed that President Azcona did not know his Foreign Ministry had reactivated the legal proceedings at The Hague; he did not know this until President Ortega informed him. He had to learn through President Ortega that his Foreign Ministry had made such an important decision. Azcona said he did not know, and I later realized that he really did not. I thought it very strange. How can a foreign minister adopt such an important decision in a country without informing the president? How can the president be excluded from the decisionmaking? How is it that he is not even informed of such things? I can confirm that the president instructed his foreign minister in front of all the other foreign ministers, and that his instructions were not followed.

The foreign minister came up with a sophism when I asked him: Mr Foreign Minister, how can it be that you are disobeying the instructions of your own president when he tells you to stop using the ICJ complaint as a pretext to block this meeting? The president has said the agreement we signed has nothing to do with Esquipulas, and Managua fulfilled its part. The foreign minister answered: They are two different things, and I am not linking them. There are two separate papers. This paper requests that Perez de Cuellar contact those governments to begin organizing the verification, and this other paper requests that you withdraw the complaint. This is Honduras' position. I said: Mr Foreign Minister, how is it that you want to continue doing what the president has told you not to do—linking the two things? Oh no, he said, I am not linking them. These are two separate papers. You sign here and I sign there. If you do not sign here, I will not sign there.

What they say in Honduras—that the foreign minister obeys the U.S. Embassy and certain sectors of the Army—is food for thought. In an editorial yesterday, the foreign minister was not referred to as Carlos Lopez Contreras. Perhaps it was a typographical error, I do not know, but it read Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contra. However, a great deal has been said about his obeying another [words indistinct] but I find that very hard to believe, because I believe in the goodwill of the presidents who signed the agreement, and I believe in their promise to fully and faithfully comply with it. However, those against the objectives of peace and cooperation proposed in the Esquipulas II agreement are using lower levels—in this case, the Honduran foreign minister; my friend Carlos Lopez Contreras.

It is an incredible situation, and I told him so. It is interesting to inform the press of this, because the people, the Central American people and all peace-loving people, have a right to know the inside story. That meeting was closed; not even the foreign ministers' advisers were allowed to be present, much less the press. Not even the usual photographs were taken at the beginning of the meeting. No one was in a mood for that. I would not have been opposed to that or to having all the delegations present, but they wanted a closed meeting. I believe in open diplomacy; there was no reason to hold a closed meeting, and that is why I have dared to present this report in such a sincere, objective, and clear manner. If you care, to you can corroborate what I have told you with other Central American foreign ministers who were present, but not with the one who played the role of Honduran attorney.

Borge on FDN Task Force Surrender, Shultz Trip

PA2606232888 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1846 GMT 26 Jun 88

[News conference held by Interior Minister Tomas Borge and FDN Commanders Anpinio Palacios and "Mejia" with local and foreign reporters at Government House in Managua on 26 June—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] [Borge] ...We have gathered here to inform you of a very important event. This is the first time the FDN Milton Fritz Task Force, headed by Commander Anpinio Palacios, has laid down weapons since its formation in 1982. Along with Palacios, the task force has returned with its military materiel and with the Sumu population, which has lived under pressure, practically kidnapped, by the FDN in Honduran territory. In other words, Palacios' task force is the first to lay down weapons and join the struggle for peace, and it is the last armed Sumu group allied with the FDN. Through Palacios, 80 armed men—including civilians, many of them women—were also released. [sentence as heard] On the way to Nicaragua the group arrived in Gualaquistan, where three Sumu children were born. This laying down of weapons was achieved through the joint effort of the Interior Ministry and the EPS. The Sandinist Air Force, using seven helicopters, transferred Palacios' civilian companions from Gualaquistan to La Mina Bonanza. [passage omitted]

[Sanchez] Hermes Sanchez of EL NUEVO DIARIO. Nearly 6 years after joining the counterrevolution, what led you to lay down your arms, and how many civilians accompanied you?

[Palacios] Our action was decided at a meeting of the entire general staff that comprises the Milton Fritz Task Force, which I commanded. The decision was a very important factor for the Sumu people, because they have always suffered the effects of the war and were a bit estranged from the people of Bonanza, because they were not their people. Their people were in Musaguan, [name indistinct], and Cuagua. We have not come here to lay down our weapons; we have come to help the Sumu people rebuild their town.

[Reporter] Two questions. Since you are a former counterrevolutionary task force leader, what was your relationship with Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez, who presides over the counterrevolutionary hierarchy, and what knowledge do you have of the number of Nicaraguan Indians who have been kidnapped by the counterrevolutionary forces?

[Palacios] That question can be answered by Commander Mejia, who knows more about what you have asked.

[Mejia] Col Bermudez did not seek to favor the Sumu people. The contras only needed hands; they had no interest in helping our relatives. [passage omitted]

[Specula] Mary Specula, [words indistinct] agency. I would like to ask Commander Borge a question. Last week the Yatama [Miskito, Sumu, Rama Indians, and Creole Groups Organization] issued a communique stating they will continue the war. I would like to know if fighting has been reported on the Atlantic coast? Also, as far as you know, how strong is the Yatama? [passage omitted]

[Borge] There has been no fighting in the area. There is a Yatama group, probably Wycliffe Diego's group, that has joined the FDN. I think that Coleman [not further identified] and Diego are the only two who are talking war. However, they are not strong enough; they have absolutely no forces backing them. [passage omitted]

We have not been able to continue our talks with Brooklyn Rivera and Steadman Fagoth because they are making demands we cannot meet. Rivera and Fagoth have no military support; they have no military force backing them, yet they are virtually asking us to separate the Atlantic coast from the rest of the country. One of their most important demands is a reduction [disminucion] of the Atlantic coast territory and that they be allowed to create what they have called Yatama self-defense units to protect that territory—in other words, an independent army.

In addition, Rivera and others have said they have not proposed a division of the country. They say they belong to Nicaragua, yet they propose an independent army, independent police, and an autonomy plan to be decided by a referendum compared to the autonomy plan that has already been voted into law by the National Assembly. This and other questions do not offer any basis for serious negotiation.

Apart from this contradiction with these Yatama leaders, this organization does not have any armed support on the Atlantic coast; there presently are no native armed forces on the Atlantic coast. A nearly complete peace with these forces has been achieved. The Milton Fritz Task Force, which is the last one in the southern sector, and the FDN 1st Task Force have both laid down their weapons on the Atlantic coast.

[Reporter] Commander, have the talks with Yatama and Rivera been suspended? Will they not be continued?

[Borge] I would not say these talks will not continue. These talks have been very difficult so far. We are still waiting for them to make more realistic proposals and take a position more in accordance with reality. We also expect their proposals to be backed by a specific political force. There is the Yatama organization headed by Coleman and Wycliffe Diego and the group headed by Rivera and Fagoth. There are other groups that have laid down their arms, such as that of Stevens, which was the last Miskito group that joined the peace process. This group also calls itself Yatama. Those groups that have laid down their weapons and disarmed their men could perhaps be more representative than those groups that have neither arms nor men but have made unrealistic proposals. We do not refuse to talk, however. Our position is always flexible and open to dialogue.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Shultz' trip to Central America without visiting Nicaragua?

[Borge] It has to do with that, but not much. Although he attempts to act apart from the Reagan policy in Central America because of their image, Mr Shultz comes to pressure Central American politicians and force them to join a plan against Nicaragua. His aggressive and insulting remarks against our dignity are not by mere chance. His not coming to Nicaragua does not happen by chance. As Daniel Ortega had said, (?he should have come here), because he does not have any problems with the Salvadoran or Honduran Governments. He has problems with the Nicaraguan Government. He has to deal with us concerning Central America. Yet he did not come to Nicaragua, thus expressing, once again, an unrealistic policy.

Unfortunately, the perspectives of peace, despite our efforts and initiatives, have been hampered, not only by the contras, but by those who lead them—the warmongering sectors within the current U.S. Government. Palacios told me he is convinced these contra forces do not respond to their own interests but to those of the United States. They are CIA puppets.

What is the name of the U.S. officer who visited the camps? There is a close relationship. Americans arrive there and issue instructions on what to do. The contras do not have their own ideas. This is what I mean. The name of this officer is John Galvin. He used to go to the camps to meet with the FDN forces.

So we are dealing, not only with the position taken by the counterrevolutionaries, but also with the specific position taken by the U.S. Government. Shultz is now the spokesman, even more so now that the current U.S. Government is approaching the end of its term. We do not know how the U.S. electoral process will end, but we are following Shultz' movements carefully, both within and outside the United States. We and Shultz could perhaps understand each other some time in the future. Who knows? [passage omitted]

RN, EPS Contacts in Field To Maintain Truce

PA2506003288 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] There is only 1 week remaining in the cease-fire that has been in force since the signing of the Sapoa agreements on 23 March. The temporary cease-fire will expire on 30 June because of the breakdown of the peace negotiation talks between the Sandinist government and the so-called Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]. In their last round of talks, not even an extension of this cease-fire was agreed upon.

Nevertheless, spread in small groups and far from rural villages, the contras hold periodic meetings with the Sandinist military leaders, trying very hard to avoid a premature break in the military truce, according to what both sides admit.

Major Cesar Largaespada, head of EPS Brigade 362, operating in the Pantasma area, Jinotega, admits that these meetings with the contras prove that peace is possible in Nicaragua. Pantasma, where Brigade 362's General Staff is located, is an important farming village, 259 km north of Managua. Over these past 7 years it has very often become a coveted contra target. Maj Largaespada said that the contras generally respect the temporary cease-fire, but he admitted there are certain more radical factions that follow Colonel Enrique Bermudez' line and continue launching indiscriminate attacks.

The most recent example of this disparity took place 2 days ago when some 20 contras ambushed a civilian vehicle, killing a prominent Jinotega coffee grower, his two grandsons, and his driver. Incidents such as this automatically increase tensions in the area. However, the Pantasma peasants hold on to their work with the same force as they hold on to their illusion for peace, which 3 months ago appeared possible with the Sapoa agreements.

Only 2 years ago the contras abounded unchecked, but the situation has changed, and now it is the EPS who controls the area. Maj Largaespada trusts the success of the negotiations between the government and the RN, but that does not prevent him from keeping his men in constant training. Asked about the internal contra problems, the Pantasma Sandinist military leader said the attitude of the dissident RN commanders could definitely influence the attitude of the fighters under their command.

Militias Kill 3 Contras in Nueva Segovia

PA2406185288 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Report by Ocotal correspondent Jilma Rodriguez]

[Text] Three counterrevolutionaries were killed at 2030 on Wednesday by militias in Quilali, Nueva Segovia Department. The action occurred when a group of the forces supporting Bermudez' terrorist actions tried to take by surprise the militia post of the town of El Barro, southeast of Quilali.

A military source reported that the dead mercenaries were members of the Pedro Joaquin Gonzalez Regional Command, which operates in that region.

Central Bank Devalues Cordoba 80 Percent

PA2506172088 Paris AFP in Spanish 1606 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Managua, 25 Jun (AFP)—Today the cordoba, the Nicaraguan currency, was devalued 80 percent by the exchange house of the Central Bank of Nicaragua.

This devaluation is the second in 10 days, and it means that as of today, the dollar, which was being traded at 137 cordobas, will be exchanged for 210 cordobas. Sources from the only authorized exchange house in the country said that the measure was adopted in order to control the black market, where, up to now, the dollar was being sold for 200 to 250 cordobas. [passage omitted]

Liberals Protest Arrest of Party Members

PA2506153288 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0400 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Telegram sent to President Daniel Ortega Saavedra by Liberal Party (Pali) President Dr Andres Zuniga M. and Vice President Jorge Ramirez Acevedo—dated 22 June]

[Text] Managua, Nicaragua, 22 June.

President Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra:

We wish to inform you of the arrest of three Pali members: Orlando Centeno, Pablo Meneses, and Jose Francisco Rueda, at 0600 on 13 June by state security agents on charges of political activism.

We ask you: Where are the Esquipulas, Sapoa agreements, etc? Where is the respect for the Constitution that you so widely proclaim? Who rules this country, state security or Nicaraguan civil law?

[Signed] Dr Andres Zuniga M., President; Jorge Ramirez Acevedo, Vice President and Secretary General, Pali

Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives

PA2406192288 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Gabor Nagy, who is touring Central America and Venezuela seeking broader relations with Latin America, arrived in Nicaragua yesterday. Nagy showed interest in the Nicaraguan situation and the general political climate in Central America. He described the worldwide situation as an era of dialogue and expressed hope that the Central American countries will maintain good relations with each other. Nagy's visit to Nicaragua will improve Hungary's political and economic policy toward Nicaragua.

Panama

Solis on Lesson of Crisis, Public Employees

PA2406221888 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1845 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, at the National Agriculture Institute in Divisa—live]

[Excerpts] Good morning, Colonel Alberto Purcell, representative of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Defense Forces, and the general staff; cabinet ministers; deputy minister of agricultural development; the Nicaraguan ambassador—who has set aside political ideologies and private beliefs, and I believe it is opportune to show our appreciation of the fraternity demonstrated by his government and people, of the support given to our country, by giving him a standing ovation for such a worthy representative [applause]—gentlemen and directors of decentralized departments; Honorable (Enrique Malo), governor of Veraguas Province; Honorable Julio Bermudez, president of the National Confederation of Peasant Settlements; Honorable Rafael Taveras, president of the third meeting of Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America—who has reaffirmed to Panama its permanent solidarity in the struggle for the liberation of our country, for whom I request a standing ovation [applause]—Honorable Jose Rojas, vice president of CONAC [National Confederation of Peasant Settlements]; Honorable Hector Aleman, secretary general of the National Federation of Government Employees and coordinator of the Popular Unity Front—to whom I express permanent gratefulness on behalf of my government and myself for the work done to maintain peace in the country so we can advance in our sovereign struggle—members of the National Confederation of Peasant Settlements; special guests; ladies and gentlemen:

Soon after I assumed my duties as representative of the executive branch in this difficult and tenacious struggle for our country's liberation, I attended a meeting in San Miguelito. At that meeting, I said I felt very well; that I was comfortable meeting with the Panamanian people, because I am part of that people. I come from a modest rural home, and I do not think I am a traitor to my class. That is why I said I felt very well. [applause] That is why I said that it was not important for me to have membership cards to the Union Club or the Golf Club or any other of those organizations of the Panamanian bourgeoisie and aristocracy. [passage omitted]

They say that during the presidential campaign in Chile, a very conservative man used to say while riding in his car: Point to the right, and turn to the right. Allende, whom we all admired, used to say: Point to the left, and turn to the left. However, a man named Tomich from the Christian Democratic Party used to say: Point to the left, but turn to the right. [laughter] I am not going to say I come from the rural areas, marching to the left, and later tell you: Pardon the wealthy of Panama and not the poor from the rural areas, because I would then be taking a turn to the right, and I am not going to do that. [applause]

In this way, I am also answering the statements made by our friend Hector Aleman, who talked about my background and commitments.

Julio Bermudez has brought up many problems. He has also referred to the debt, and we have already talked about that. He talked about the need to review the problems with irrigation. I think we must revise that.

If the irrigation system was set up badly, let us set it up again. Let us see what we can do. Let us know where irrigation is badly needed so we can build it. Peasants cannot have an erratic system. We rarely have losses due to excessive rain. However, drought is constantly destroying our production. We must review that.

There is talk of there being too much infrastructure or of infrastructure that is not fully used. I think it is indispensible to inventory all the goods, equipment, and potential of each peasant settlement so we can see how we can use that infrastructure to make it productive and turn it over to those who can use it to produce. We are not talking about turning these things over to the rich private sector but to those who must produce with the aid of the government and the state. [passage omitted]

What about the company's reserves? A company can declare itself bankrupt if it has not been able to report a profit for several years. We do not think an enterprise has the right to dismiss its workers simply because it has not reported a profit for the last 2-3 years. Today

enterprises have an obligation to use their reserves and to give them to the Panamanian people who worked hard for those enterprises. [applause] We know that when we talk like this, we run a totally calculated risk of being called communists. Many feel that to defend the fatherland is communism, because to defend the poor is communism. We are not worried about that. We are worried that when those people or those enterprises start to talk about communism, many of us become scared of our own people and play into their hands. We are not communists. There is no communism in Panama. Panamanian policy must be viewed within the context of the Panamanian situation. The Panamanians love their land, love their possessions, and want to live independently. They are not prepared for communism. Furthermore, the Panamanian people can never be prepared for slavery—ever! [applause] That is something that can never be accepted. I believe we have become more and more aware of our role.

Tomorrow, we mark the 4th month of accepting the responsibility to assume the Panamanian state's public administration and leadership—the national government. People thought we would not last 1 week, and even our friends in government—not the seditious people, but those who were willing to help and not betray us—were crushed. They could not react; they did not understand anything; and they did not know how we would get out of the tough spot, because it was not possible to stand up to the most powerful country on earth. Yet we stood up to it, and this was possible thanks to the aid given by friendly countries and the encouragement given by all the small and large countries in the world. This was basically possible because of the Panamanian people's understanding and decision to wager our last card in defense of our nationality, in defense of their Panama, their territory, and their homeland.

That is the lesson, and the world recognizes it today. We will try not to let them down in the near or far future, because Panama is writing part of Latin America's history and the poor nations' history—because this is also those nations' history and struggle. We wage that struggle today, and those nations have interpreted it that way, so they have come to support us. We hope—and everything points in that direction—that their support will increase, and Panama will soon no longer be an isolated nation. The aggressor will find itself isolated, because it is the only one that does not recognize our government today; it still talks about Gen Noriega's retirement, and it still does not understand the concept of a military officer in command of a popular force, serving the people, and waging a permanent struggle for the Republic of Panama's dignity and decorum. Those who are responsible for the scandal at the U.S. Pentagon cannot understand this. [passage omitted]

There was talk about excess cash in the banks. It is true. At this time, the banks have excess cash. This is a very peculiar phenomenon, because 3 months ago there was no cash in Panama. Today there is excess cash in the banks, so much that some banks no longer want deposits to be made in cash. They do not know what to do with it. Yesterday, we met with the Banking Commission to ask that the problem be studied so we can find an outlet for this excess cash. This is not good business for some of the banks, since they have to pay interest without at the same time receiving funds themselves.

The banks feel conditions are still not present to begin the country's economic reconstruction, movement, and activation. The Banking Commission is looking into the matter according to norms that we outlined yesterday during a meeting with them—which lasted all morning and part of the afternoon. We share the views about the problem concerning the sale of La Victoria sugar mill and those workers there who have not betrayed the homeland. We fully share those views, and I know you are referring to the [Government and Justice Minister] Chiari group. We have our government and justice minister here. We share those views, and we hope they will be able to cut the umbilical cord that has tied them to the other mill for many years, so one thing does not benefit the other. [passage omitted]

We do not have plans—and I take the opportunity here to address Hector Aleman—to dismiss public employees following orders from the World Bank or any other organization. However, we just cannot afford to have public employees who only show up to pick up their paychecks. We cannot allow that. [applause]

We also cannot afford to have public employees holding two, three, or four jobs. Those workers do not sleep or eat because they work 40 hours a day, and those kinds of days do not exist. [laughter] We must also end influence peddling. If we begin making exceptions, we would not be able to dismiss anyone, because in a small country such as ours everyone has an influential contact. We simply cannot allow this. Those who hold two or three jobs must stay with one or no job at all. We cannot allow this. [applause] [passage omitted]

There are offices paying over $200,000 a fortnight in overtime. This cannot be allowed, because if we visited those offices during usual working hours, we find the women doing their fingernails and the men doing who knows what. We cannot allow this. [laughter] These sorts of things have to be changed. Some offices are changing, but this is the time to do it. [passage omitted]

To finish, gentlemen, I would like to ask you to be deeply aware of your responsibilities. Let us ensure that this joint venture of the government and people not be only an expression, but a reality of mutual demands so we may be able to make our country come out ahead.

Let us not be fooled. Yesterday it was said that in a Chiriqui Province school, notebooks that had been donated by SELA and especially by Cuba were found to contain Marxist, subversive, and communist literature. The funny thing is that the notebooks had not yet been

distributed, and they are just now being sent to the provinces and to the schools. However, in this school up there in the mountains, boxes containing notebooks with such literature were found. Television cameras were there. What a coincidence that the television camera crews were there deep in the mountains to film this.

It is clear they have not been able to cut our jugular, as D'Amato said. They have not been able to do it by cutting off the flow of dollars; they have not been able to do it by cutting of trade; they have not been able to do it by ordering U.S. companies to not pay us their taxes; and they have not been able to do it by freezing the funds of the Panamanian people and government. They have not been able to do it by those means, but now they are using the communism story to see if they can convince the Panamanian people that the only thing left for them is just that. However, with their naive mentality, they are unaware of the essence of the Panamanian people and especially of the people in the interior. I do not know how the world has been able to survive with a leader of humanity as incompetent [incapaz] as the U.S. Government.

Thank you very much.

Japanese Envoy on Recognition of Government
PA2606210988 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Japan has issued a statement through its diplomatic representative in Panama stating it has always had tacit diplomatic relations with the Panamanian Government headed by Manuel Solis Palma.

His Excellency Teruyuki Sawai, Japanese ambassador to Panama for the past year, said Japan wishes to maintain good and friendly relations with Panama because it has had no problems with our country.

The high-ranking Japanese diplomat added that at no time has the Japanese Government talked about whether or not it would recognize the Solis Palma government, because relations with Panama were never broken.

Ministers Report on Impact of Economic Crisis
PA2506204288 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 Jun 88 pp A-1, B-2

[Article by Cesar E. Gomez Marin]

[Text] Last night Commerce and Industries Minister Mario Rognoni said at the Legislative Assembly that reports and consultations with the business sector have revealed "a real and significant deterioration of the private sector of the economy." Meanwhile, Labor and Social Welfare Minister Cesar Martans reported that 18,078 workers have been dismissed so far this year. This figure does not include the 20,000 workers who have been laid off in the construction industry. The number of unemployed is now 136,665, a 17.2-percent increase in the first 6 months of the year.

Last night Rognoni and Martans reported to the Legislative Assembly on what some legislators have described as "a tragic situation for the Panamanian people, who are victims of an indescribable aggression." Compared to last year, dismissals (11,413) have risen 57 percent. This provides an indication of the severity of the unemployment crisis. At the end of 1987, 89,371 were unemployed, and in the first 6 months of this year we have 47,294 more jobless Panamanians.

The well-known effects of the crisis are even worse than they seem because, for the first time in the country's history, the following figures have been reported: 13,531 workers have been dismissed, and 80.3 percent, or 10,860 of the dismissals, took place on a mutual agreement basis [between employer and employee]. Only 1,086 out of the 3,757 dismissals in 1987 were on a mutual agreement basis. This means that in the conscience of each worker, there is a real awareness of the crisis and a realization that there is no solution in sight.

Last night the Legislative Assembly invited to its session the labor and social welfare minister, the commerce and industries minister, and Gustavo Gonzalez, the planning and economic policy minister, to question them about the various aspects of the economic and fiscal crisis experienced in the country.

Azael Purcait, deputy planning and economic policy minister, explained the current government plan to do away with sinecures, officials having no specific duties to perform, retirees holding government posts, officials receiving two paychecks, and others in the government bureaucracy who have no reason for being there.

Commerce and Industries Minister Mario Rognoni pointed out that the most adversely affected area has been the construction sector, which is almost completely paralyzed with 18,000 workers and 2,000 professionals laid off. If to this we added all the peripheral industries connected to the construction sector, which is the country's largest economic sector, we get an idea of how "difficult it is to quantify" the expansiveness of this labor and economic crisis, especially in the most populated cities, such as the capital.

In the industrial sector, polls carried out by the Association of Panamanian Industrialists place the unemployment rate at 13 percent, with some 6,500 workers affected. In garment production, working hours have been reduced from 44 to 25 percent. In printing, more than 200 workers have been dismissed, 3 companies have gone bankrupt, and 500 typographic and graphic arts workers are on leave without pay. The bankrupt companies are IGSA, Dilsyn Boxes, and the Victoriano Lorenzo printing house.

Bakeries have dismissed 24 employees; insurance companies, 75, or 35 percent of their total staff; reinsurance companies, 0; banks, 500, or 6 percent of their workforce; and finance companies 214, or less than 40 percent of their workers.

Rognoni said the adverse impact has been greater in the informal sectors of the economy, meaning that short-term contracts have been almost eliminated. Almost no long-term contracts have been signed, and there has been a reduction of direct services (yard maintenance, car washing, and minor services).

Restaurants have reduced operating hours. In tourism, 180 people have been dismissed, and working hours have been reduced. Two hotels have closed: the Premier and the Ideal.

In the commercial sector, the Free Zone has had only a slight reduction from last year. The greatest decline was in March, as a result of the port workers' strike. The minister explained that the effect on the Free Zone was slight because foreign trade has hardly been affected by the crisis, which is domestic. Retailers have reduced working hours from 8 to 6, in two shifts.

Minister Mario Rognoni said that in this period there have been 239 cancellations of commercial licenses, as opposed to 257 last year. From March to May 1987, 1166 new business licenses were issued, but only 435 were issued this year.

Rognoni told the Legislative Assembly that he sincerely believes the worst has passed and that the time has come to make concrete decisions for reactivation. He said: "It should be a joint decision by Panamanians in a search for solutions or measures conducive to a solution."

The minister added that he had found businessmen and the labor force increasingly aware that this crisis affects everyone and that only contributions to the search for creative, dynamic, and imaginative solutions can generate new ideas and means to achieve the reactivation we all desire.

Last night the Legislative Assembly agreed to continue this discussion with the ministers of commerce, labor, and planning, as requested by Legislator Francisco Artola, "in view of the importance of these reports and their impact on the country's economic and social life." He said the Assembly cannot ignore these reports, even though it is 3 days away from the end of the present legislative period. Artola added that the nation should be aware of their severity.

The session in which the ministers will be questioned will begin at 0900, with the participation of both government legislators and the opposition, which voted unanimously to continue these reports by the ministers.

Government Extends Deadline for Tax Payments

PA2406222388 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 24 Jun 88 pp 1, 19

[Excerpts] The Panama Canal Commission employee labor unions are very seriously concerned about the Ronald Reagan government's noncompliance with the payment of taxes, Social Security, and other obligations to the Panama Government. The workers' concern is justified because this endangers the well-being of the Panamanian employees and their dependents.

Labor leaders have pointed out that this situation is creating serious difficulties and constitutes not only a violation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties but of the workers' rights to participate in the decisions that affect their own future and that of their dependants. [passage omitted]

They have pointed out that Finance and Treasury Minister Orville Goodin has approved an extension for all of these citizens to meet their obligations by 30 June, and thus comply with paying of their taxes to the national treasury. [passage omitted]

Civic Crusade Leader: Situation at 'Impasse'

PA2606152688 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0455 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] San Jose, 25 Jun (DPA)—Today in San Jose, Panamanian Civic Crusade leader Aurelio Barria said that Latin America "must express its solidarity for the Panamanian people's struggle against General Manuel Antonio Noriega's dictatorship."

Barria, president of the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce until the day he was forced to leave his country and who now lives in Miami, was invited to Costa Rica by the Costa Rican Chamber of Commerce.

Barria said that "Noriega is an oppressor of the people. He is like a dictator who has subjugated the people and does not allow them to express their feelings."

The former president of the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce said that the struggle continues. "We have not been defeated; we have reached an "impasse," he added. [quotation marks as received]

In answering questions from members of the Costa Rican Chamber of Commerce, the Panamanian opposition leader said: "We would like to achieve a negotiated solution and avoid bigger problems for Panama."

Barria explained that the negotiated solution obviously implies "Noriega stepping down from power and leaving the country."

Aurelio Barria stressed that to achieve democratization or to hope for democratization in Panama, three things are necessary: The media that have been shut down must be allowed to reopen; those who have been forced to leave the country and seek political asylum abroad must be allowed to return to the country; and freedom of action for political parties seeking to become involved in the 1989 elections must be guaranteed.

Legislator Says U.S. Planes 'Harass' Peasants

PA2406203688 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 24 Jun 88 pp 1, 19

[Article by Luis Carlos Perez]

[Excerpts] U.S. combat planes and helicopter gunships constantly harass the peasants in Donoso District, Belen, Coclesito, and nearby communities on Panama's Atlantic side, Legislator Hugo Giraud has charged.

The Democratic Revolutionary Party legislator made the charges at the Legislative Assembly to protest this new aggression and provocation by U.S. soldiers against the Panamanian people.

He added that the peasants said helicopter gunships flew over Juan Julio Hill (next to Marta Hill, where General Omar Torrijos was killed) last week and dropped some "white balls," but their contents and purposes are unknown. [passage omitted]

Legislator Giraud vigorously protested this matter. He pointed out that in that area of Panama's Atlantic side there are only hard-working peasants, who are very patriotic men with great dignity.

Carlos Duque Accepts PRD Presidency Nomination

PA2506021988 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 23 Jun 88 pp 11, 16

[Speech by Carlos Duque, candidate for the presidency of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), "yesterday"—place not given]

[Text] Fellow party members, brothers with an honorable fatherland:

I deeply appreciate the homage by a PRD group that has nominated me for the presidency of the glorious PRD on the occasion of plans to make changes in the National Executive Committee, the Political Committee, and the National Secretariat.

I have accepted the challenge of running Omar's [Torrijos] party. This is no easy task, because it involves coordinating the energy and aspirations of a party of 200,000 members, a party comprising many social sectors throughout the country. This is truly a political front. I have accepted this responsibility. A group of fellow party activists will accompany me: Carlos Ozores, as vice president; Darisnel Espino, secretary general; Pedro Pereira, first assistant secretary; and Gustavo Melgar, second assistant secretary. This ticket resulted from a consensus agreement. My ticket represents all the PRD political forces. It has not been easy to compose this ticket; it is the product of many discussions in the organization. We are willing to continue talks for the benefit of party unity.

We believe that the support I and the rest of my ticket are receiving is, more than a personal benefit, a responsibility we will take on to lead the party to victory.

Our party is not an island; we are part of Panamanian society, and we are not untouched by the political, economic, and military crisis the current U.S. Administration is enduring [as published]. The Panamanian people are living through one of the worst crises in their history, but they are doing so with dignity and patriotism, making evident who the traitors are and who the patriots are. In spite of the massive misinformation campaign launched from the north, the people have not fallen into the trap and have realized the two choices are either a Panamanian struggle to improve national independence or their becoming another star in the Yankee flag.

The dignity of the Panamanians must be pointed out, because one challenge of our party is to lead the people in a victorious search for a political way out of the current situation.

The Reagan administration made a mistake regarding Panama. Even with a most brutal economic blockade, it has been unable to make us kneel. In this regard, we have to acknowledge the role that the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and its commander, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, have played with their appropriate and patriotic handling of the confrontation.

This is why the PRD backs the FDP and its commander. We defend the political alliance that unites us, because it is the guarantee of a correct leadership to end colonialism and enact the social transformations that our people need to live better.

In this confrontation, our party has played an important role together with the FDP. We have confronted an opposition that is not mature and, therefore, has served the interests of colonialism, hoping for a political solution imposed by the United States.

We want to make it clear that we are not the enemies of the U.S. people. We want relations with that nation and its government in the framework of respect and equality. As a result of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, we have an association with them and we want to continue participating in this association with maturity and respect, as we have always participated. However, Reagan, Shultz, and Abrams have abused the good will of the Panamanians and want to perpetuate their colonial presence in Panama beyond the year 2000, but this the Panamanian people find intolerable.

I will take advantage of this tribune provided by Omar's party to tell the Reagan administration we are a peaceful people, we want to be left alone, we do not accept meddling in the domestic affairs of our country, and we want the removal of its ambassador, who conspires clandestinely against Panamanian institutions and important people.

We also want to tell the Panamanian opposition that it should act in a more responsible and mature way, that it should not look to the United States for solutions to Panamanian political problems. We, the Panamanians, have to find the solutions ourselves. We have to find our own aspirin, as Omar used to say.

The PRD is prepared to talk with all the political forces of the country in the search for a truly Panamanian solution.

This is why we invite all the political forces to join the electoral process, which is the best road for resolving our differences.

We want to say that within the PRD we will promote discussions on the role to be played by the party in the next elections in order to aim our efforts at the goal of achieving a clear victory.

We have to adopt some political measures. We will work for the unity of the party. This is a strategic task. This unity will be based on a party program, a Torrijist program of national and social liberation. The activities of the party cannot be based, as it occurs in the traditional parties, on personal preferences and on opportunism. This is why we must comply with the postulates of the democratic, popular, multiclass, unitary, rank-and-file-based, programmatic, and principled party. The PRD is not an election-time-only party. It is a party that has the mission to transform Panama's society and to put an end to colonialism.

That is why the party has the responsibility to maintain its unity with the popular movement and compose an alliance with those sectors for national liberation. The alliance with the FDP, the axis of the revolutionary process' political leadership, is particularly important.

The task of organizing the party is important for us. That is why we have not only proposed the election of a new National Executive Council but also a Political Commission and National Secretariat, to compose a coherent Directorate and bring new blood and enough energy to turn the organization into an invincible party. We will compose a new Directorate that acts and works, and all the structures will assume their responsibility, casting aside individual interests. The most important thing in politics is to add...to add—never subtract! We will add all the Torrijists who have been subtracted, and "only the traitors wil be excluded."

In addition to these organizational tasks, we have pledged to organize the third PRD organizational congress. During the congress, we will discuss reforms to the statutes and the Declaration of Principles. We have proposed a new organizational structure and the amendment of mandates, among other things.

The party Directorate also must include the new leaders who have yet to join the organizational groups because of the congress' position.

The new Directorate has the responsibility of preparing the party for the May 1989 elections. Consequently, we will implement an overall discussion of reforms to the Electoral Code, and we will present regulations to propose candidates so we may choose the most outstanding activists for the electoral posts.

To conclude, fellow party members, we have a difficult task ahead. We also face a difficult situation, and we will need everyone's efforts to attain progress. You will find that I am a receptive president.

Long live the PRD! Long live Omar! Not a single step backwards! For a united PRD until the final victory!

Panama City, 22 June 1988

For a free and sovereign Panama

FDP Reports Jan-Jun 1988 Drug Seizures

PA2708004388 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2355 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Panama City, 26 Jun (DPA)—The special Anti-drug Brigade of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] has issued a report on this country's fight against drug trafficking during the first 6 months of 1988.

According to official reports, during January-June 1988 the authorities seized a total of 427.286 kg of cocaine, 37.497 kg of bazuco (cocaine residue), and 3.348 kg of marijuana, most of which was seized at the country's maritime ports and airports.

The antidrug units have worked together with the Air Force, the Navy, and the canine units. In this way, the organizations engaged in drug trafficking have had to establish new routes through the Caribbean to achieve their goals.

Argentina

Alfonsin Calls LA NACION Article 'Terrorist'

PY2406000088 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2044 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] Bariloche, 23 Jun (DYN)—In Bariloche, President Raul Alfonsin today described an article signed by former Ambassador Arnaldo Musich as "terrorist." The article, which was published this morning in the newspaper LA NACION, criticizes the government's economic policy. Alfonsin said the article represents an "attack on" the country.

In his commentary, Musich—currently an official for an international organization—praises Alfonsin's achievements in his effort to implement Argentina's democratic process. Otherwise, Musich describes Alfonsin as an "unsuccessful leader" who "missed a great opportunity" to realign the Argentine economy.

Musich also warned about the possibility that the next constitutional government which will succeed the Alfonsin Government will inherit "an extremely difficult situation, perhaps worse" than the situation inherited by the incumbent from the past military regime.

During a speech on the country's economic development at the opening session of a seminar on investment and economic development in the Patagonia, Alfonsin emphasized: "In my opinion, this actually is the most inconsistent and irresponsible article that I have read in my entire administration."

After elaborating on the strategy being implemented by the government "change to an economic system that has obviously been exhausted in Argentina," the head of state warned about "the existence of vested interests that are being raised against this new strategy."

As an example, Alfonsin said: "Of course, several opinions are being voiced on the one I just read on the plane today. In my opinion, the opinion of Mr (Arnaldo) Musich, published today in a Buenos Aires newspaper, is actually the most inconsistent and irresponsible article that I have read during my entire administration."

"I do not know if this article will serve the interests of the Argentine creditors, but I certainly know that this article does not serve Argentine interests," Alfonsin said.

In comparison, the head of state recalled that the writer of the article—Arnaldo Musich, an official for an international private organization—has written other comments on the Malvinas Islands issue "when Argentine prestige was at stake in several international forums seeking to defend Argentina's sovereign rights."

"I do not know, either, if the articles then served the interests of the UK Government but I am sure that they did not serve Argentine interests in the South Atlantic," Alfonsin said.

Alfonsin rejected the idea that "we will look for scapegoats," as suggested in the article, because "our government has taken full responsibility."

"Someone should tell Mr Musich that it is the dictatorial systems themselves that prevent us from timely stopping the hellish machine that could lead us to an abyss. This is because dictatorships admit no mistakes," Alfonsin said. "This is a terrorist press article; it represents an attack on the nation. This article conspires against the hope and the faith of Argentines," Alfonsin stressed.

"The article claims that in case of a fiasco we will blame the business sector as if in a concerted effort with the price manipulators we wanted to avoid the process that we are trying to implement with a view toward supporting the effort to curb inflation in Argentina," Alfonsin said.

Concerning remarks that the government will blame the North [the United States] for economic problems, Alfonsin explained that it is a matter of "honestly defending the people" and not of "looking for scapegoats."

Alfonsin made it clear that "democracy, of course, cannot solve all the problems; no one can harbor such a belief."

Musich is a member of the international advisory council of the president of the Society of the Americas in New York. He is also a member of the executive committee of the Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI) in Buenos Aires.

In his article, entitled "President Alfonsin's Economic Fiasco," Musich claims that "now that Dr Alfonsin's presidential term is nearing its 5th year, the Argentine economic ills have consistently deteriorated."

After claiming that the economic reform "was amply announced but unfortunately was never implemented," the commentator warns that "the private sector, specifically the business sector, will be increasingly blamed for opposing the reform and for hindering its implementation."

Musich replies in advance to this hypothetical government action by stating that "no vested interests can oppose the firm political will of a government, especially when such a will is based on requirements and reason."

According to the commentator, "governments always need a scapegoat for their fiascoes" and "if the Argentine private sector is unable to reverse the attack, the blame will be put on the North, the rich countries, the creditor countries, and other similar subjects."

"It is not improbable that the new administration will inherit an extremely difficult situation, perhaps worse than the one inherited by Dr Alfonsin after the military government in late 1983," the commentator concluded.

More Officers To Benefit From 'Full Stop Law'

PY2406171588 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Jun 88 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The Supreme Court yesterday granted the benefit of the full stop law to retired Generals Luciano Benjamin Menendez, Antonio Domingo Bussi and Luis Martella, together with eight other lower-ranking officers and non-commissioned officers in human rights violations charges committed in the province of Tucuman during the past military regime.

The case, which includes some 800 accusations on illegal repression, was filed before the Tucuman Court of Appeals, later taken up by the Cordoba Federal Court and was finally closed by the Supreme Court because of the jurisdictional conflict which arose between the two provincial courts, no decision was taken within the 60-day deadline the full stop law determined for all human rights-related trials.

The case of General Menendez, however, brings no change in the cases where he is accused of similar crimes committed in Cordoba.

Caputo Leaves for Group of Eight Meeting

PY2506183988 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has left to attend the Group of Eight meeting of foreign ministers in Mexico. On the way, he made an official visit to Venezuela, where he discussed Latin American integration with Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi.

Commenting on the Group of Eight meeting, Minister Caputo said the most important regional problems will be discussed there, including the Panamanian situation.

Answering Radio Nacional's question on whether the foreign debt will be excluded from the discussion, Minister Caputo said:

[Begin recording] The debt issue and some other problems that are part of the Latin American reality will be discussed by the Group of Eight, which aims to, informally solve Latin American problems. We will discuss several topics that have been proposed, including President Alfonsin's proposal. Some other topics, and the ideas the president launched in Argentina, are also being discussed in Mexico.

The results of the industrialized countries' summit, which recently ended in Toronto, Canada, will also be discussed. During the summit, the industrialized countries took the stand that the foreign debt and political stability of the debtor countries are closely related. [passage omitted]

This fact opens the door to a number of proposals based on the principle that the debt can be solved through political measures. [end recording]

Asked about his position regarding the Japanese proposal on the foreign debt, Minister Caputo answered:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] The new fact is the impetus through which Japan is assuming its political role. There had been a certain imbalance between Japanese economic and financial development and the high position it occupies in the economic world, and its position in the political world.

At the end of former Prime Minister Nakasone's term in office, and now under Prime Minister Takeshita, Japan has decided to play an important role in the economic and political fields simultaneously. [passage omitted]

THE NEW YORK TIMES has recently published an editorial on current U.S. passiveness, now that it is about to change its administration, and the extremely active role that Japan played during the industrialized countries' summit. The editorial cited the sovereign proposals and the proposals for the recycling of funds which were made during the summit.

These, and a great number of other elements, must be carefully analyzed by the Group of Eight. I believe that now the group has an opportunity not only to make public comments regarding the issue, but also to analyze and define strategies to open up new paths that did not exist last year.

I believe that we must make good use of these new paths being opened before us. [end recording]

Soviet Envoy Comments on Fishing Agreement

PY2506191988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1521 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Mar del Plata (Argentina), 25 Jun (EFE)—Soviet Ambassador to Argentina Oleg Kvasov has said his country "is complying with all aspects" of the fishing agreements it has signed with the Argentine Government.

In an interview with the daily LA CAPITAL of Mar del Plata, 400 km south of Buenos Aires, Kvasov said, "Relations between the two countries are developing dynamically and are based on mutual respect and the principle of non-interference in each other's domestic matters."

K-vasov added: "The USSR is still one of the main purchasers of Argentine products." He also said: Argentina "buys our industrial products, and there is continued trade in other areas, such as the field of energy."

The Soviet diplomat pointed out the two countries "are jointly implementing several important projects, such as the construction of a thermoelectric plant in Bahia Blanca," 687 km south of Buenos Aires.

Regarding international policies, Ambassador K-vasov said the USSR and Argentina have similar points of view regarding important topics such as militarization and disarmament.

In July 1986, Argentina and the USSR signed an agreement allowing the USSR to fish 180,000 tons of fish and squid from the South Atlantic near the Malvinas Islands.

According to the agreement, Soviet fishing boats can fish within Argentina's 200 nautical miles of territorial waters.

This fishing area, however, coincides in the south with the 200 miles around the Malvinas Islands that on 1 February 1988 the United Kingdom unilaterally declared an "exclusive economic zone."

The agreement between the USSR and Argentina, which also grants Bulgaria part of the fishing rights, obligates the Soviet fishing boats to refuel at Argentine ports and establishes that 10 percent of their crews must be Argentine.

In compliance with the terms of the agreement, the USSR must deliver part of the catch to Argentine canning industries and then buy it back in processed form.

Company Reaches Accord With PRC Firm

PY2506040488 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] President Raul Alfonsin this afternoon met at the Olivos residence with PRC Ambassador Shen Yunao and Argentine businessmen Francisco Macri and Victor Garcia Laredo, who are the president and secretary of relations, respectively, of the Socma Company. President Alfonsin was briefed on an accord reached by Socma and the China International Trust and Investment Corporation. Under the terms of the accord, which provides for the transfer of technology, the two companies may form a consortium to undertake projects of common interest to the two countries.

Military Maneuvers Begin, 5000 To Participate

PY2706002988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1826 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Mendoza, 26 Jun (TELAM)—Winter military maneuvers started today in the Cuyo Region [Mendoza and San Juan Provinces] and will conclude on 9 July with a civilian and military parade in this capital in which approximately 5,000 troops will take part. Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena and Army Chief of Staff General Jose Caridi will participate in a stage of the maneuvers on 2 July.

Colonel Jorge Apa, commander of the 8th Mountain Infantry Brigade, presided today over the beginning of the Brigade's exercises at the historical site of El Plumerillo.

Similar ceremonies also took place in San Juan and San Luis during which the Army's Andean Campaign, headed by General Jose de San Martin, was recalled.

Carlos Moyano, the president of the Supreme Court [of Mendoza Province], Leopoldo Suarez, president of the Chamber of Deputies [of Mendoza Province], and other high-ranking authorities participated in the ceremony. After the national anthem had been sung and a religious homily given by Priest Jose Hora, Colonel Hector Martinez, the 8th Brigade's deputy commander, referred to the importance of the maneuvers and said farewell to the troops.

Approximately 100 men paraded, while their relatives watched the symbolic departure.

Colonel Apa indicated that similar ceremonies also took place in San Juan, San Luis, and in the south of Mendoza Province.

He also stated that the administrative bivouac will be located in the neighborhood of General San Martin Park, and that the so-called comradeship dinner will take place there on 7 July, when the 170th anniversary of the Battle of Maipu will be celebrated. The governors of the provinces of Mendoza, San Juan, San Luis, and La Pampa have been invited to the dinner.

Apa stated that Defense Minister Jaunarena and Army Chief of Staff General Caridi are expected on 2 July in the area of Pampa de Canota, where a joint Army-Air Force exercise will take place.

Police Discover, Break-Up Gang of Blackmailers

PY2606210588 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Jun 88 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The federal police broke up a gang of blackmailers which included three Army officers with alleged links to former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico. Federal Police Chief Juan Pirker confirmed yesterday.

The officers in question are retired First Lieutenant Osvaldo Antonuri, Major Hector Ferrer, who was placed on reserve after last January's rebellion, and Major Jorge D'Amico, who is currently detained at Magdalena military prison on charges of destabilization.

The police chief also reported that documents seized following their arrest showed that the activities they were involved in were "potentially dangerous to the constitutional order."

The officers were discovered while collecting 5,000 US dollars they had extracted from an unidentified businessman by threatening him and his family. The businessmen alerted the police, who caught the criminals on the scene.

Judge Maria Servini de Cubria will be grilling the three accused in a civilian court and a military judge will be intervening in the case against Ferrer.

Labor Leader Comments on ILO Conference

PY2406211688 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Saul Ubaldini, secretary general of the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] has arrived from Geneva where he participated in the annual ILO conference. Ubaldini made a statement at Ezeiza airport about the results of ILO conference and about the CGT position on the foreign debt.

[Begin recording] [Ubaldini] It was a positive trip. We presented our position regarding important issues like the foreign debt, human rights, social justice for all workers of the world, and above all, the need for an understanding to allow the people to live in happiness as they deserve through the greatest (?right) they can have, which is labor.

[Unidentified reporter] What results did you obtain from your trip?

[Ubaldini] Well, the world news media has covered Argentina's point of view, which received the support of world labor organizations, like those of the [word indistinct] from the United States, the Socialist countries, and the Arab world. They supported us in a serious and responsible manner in order to reach a solution.

The proposal taken to Toronto [as heard] is well known, and although a solution for Latin America has not been immediately possible, we know we have friends who defend our interests, while others, unfortunately, do not.

[Reporter] What exactly was said about the foreign debt?

[Ubaldini] Well, for a start we have been quite clear about the problem of our foreign debt. It is quite clear that we must first analyze which is the legitimate and which is the illegitimate foreign debt. Negotiation of the legitimate debt should include a reduction of principal and interest, and what is thus saved should be invested in the reactivation of the country's development. This will create the job opportunities and social justice that we Argentine workers need and deserve. [end recording]

We have just heard Saul Ubaldini's statement at Ezeiza airport upon his return from the ILO conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

Referring to the upcoming internal elections of the Justicialist Party, Ubaldini said he hopes they will develop democratically. He noted the need for the elected candidates to propose a program that can be supported by all Argentine citizens.

Bolivia

Coca Farmers To Stage Demonstrations

PY2306132988 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] Felipe Montevilla, secretary general of the Coca Farmers of Yungas Region, has announced that coca producers will stage demonstrations on 27 June. Coca farmers, he said, have always been willing to reach a satisfactory agreement with the government, but this has not been possible due to the intransigent position of the government representatives.

The coca farmers plan to stage demonstrations without roadblocks to force the government to comply with its commitments to the farmers.

[Begin Montevilla recording] We held a meeting with the COB leaders this morning, and we decided that all coca farmers will stage a demonstration on 27 June. On 28 June we will be joined by all the social forces of the country in La Paz and Cochabamba. On 29 June we will hold a national meeting of coca farmers to prepare for a congress in Potosi next month.

We will not give up our demands and petitions for a special law for coca, and another law for [word indistinct] the punishment of drug traffickers. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the COB leaders expressed their solidarity with the coca farmers and said that coca and cocaine must not be confused. Coca leaves alone are harmless to human health. Cocaine must be obtained through an industrial process performed by criminals—that is, the drug traffickers.

This is why the COB insists that the law treat controlled substances and coca differently.

Deputy Found Not Guilty in Narcotics Case

PY2306035988 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Excerpt] In a report approved today, the Bolivian Chamber of Deputies states that Deputy Alfredo Arce Carpio, an ADN member did not commit a crime by appearing in a video tape known as the narcovideo with drug boss Roberto Suarez Gomez.

The report was drafted by the Constitutional, Justice and Police Committee of the Chamber of Deputies.

Deputy Edgar Barrientos, a member of this committee, comments on the report:

[Begin recording] We have found that Deputy Alfredo Arce Carpio did not commit a crime and that although his visit to Roberto Suarez may be morally questionable, at the time of the visit he was not a national deputy. The Constitution empowers us only to impeach or punish a deputy who has committed serious crimes. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Brazil

Ministry Spokesman Comments on Qaddumi Visit

PY2506023688 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Jun 88 p 5

[Text] Foreign Ministry spokesman Ruy Nogueira yesterday denied reports, which had previously been confirmed by Brazilian diplomats, that the United States had supposedly requested an explanation in view of Brazil's intention to grant official status to PLO Foreign Minister [title as published] Farouq Qaddumi's visit to Brazil. In truth, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry did send a document to the U.S. State Department explaining Brazil's position regarding the PLO and confirming that, for the time being, the PLO would not be granted embassy status, which would allow it to open an office in Brasilia.

The document was sent in response to a U.S. request inquiring about Brazil's position on the PLO at a time when Brazil is receiving the PLO's second in command. Yasir 'Arafat was already aware of the content of the Brazilian document sent to Washington stating that the PLO would not be granted embassy status. Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry secretary general, informed 'Arafat about the content of the document on 19 June in Baghdad.

Because he was fully aware of the Brazilian position, Foreign Minister Farouq Qaddumi, who yesterday arrived in Brasilia on a 7-day visit, did not mention the PLO's well-known claim in the meetings he held with President Jose Sarney and Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre. Qaddumi merely praised and thanked the Brazilian Government for the position it has upheld in defense of the Palestinian cause.

During his 20-minute meeting with Qaddumi, President Sarney reasserted Brazil's "absolute solidarity" with the Palestinians. He added that these meetings are highly important in strengthening relations between the two countries [duas nacoes]. According to Sarney, the principles upheld by Brazil regarding the Palestinian cause are based on full support for withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied territories; the right to self-determination, independence, and sovereignty; the establishment of a Palestinian state; and the full participation of the PLO in a Middle East peace conference.

During his meeting with Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre, Farouq Qaddumi expressed his hope "that in view of its progressive stance, Brazil" will "grant special treatment to the PLO." He added that the Palestinian people wish to strengthen relations with Brazil, but he did not specify how this could be achieved.

In addition to his meetings with President Sarney and Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre, Farouq Qaddumi yesterday held meetings at the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops (CNBB). Today, Qaddumi is scheduled to hold meetings with ambassadors from Arab countries, with the president of the Chamber of Deputies, and the president of the Senate.

PLO's Qaddumi Praises Stance

PY2406235988 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Jun 88 p 6

[Text] Brasilia—On the 1st day of his visit to Brazil, Farouq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department and second in the PLO leadership after Yasir 'Arafat, praised the Brazilian stance regarding Middle East problems. Farouq Qaddumi held a meeting with Brazilian Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre and was received by President Jose Sarney, but he did not request diplomatic status for the PLO.

Farouq Qaddumi was feted at a luncheon given by Minister Abreu Sodre at Itamaraty and with a dinner party given by Brazilian legislators who support the Palestinian cause. Today the PLO leader will visit Congress and hold a meeting with Arab ambassadors.

Seeks Brazilian Support

PY2706033488 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Jun 88 p 8

[Text] Brasilia—PLO Foreign Minister [title as published] Farouq Qaddumi said yesterday in Brasilia that the Palestinians expect Brazil's effective participation as a member of the UN Security Council in the call for a Middle East peace conference. "We hope the Brazilian Government will support all UN resolutions in favor of the Palestinian cause and the proposals we have presented," Qaddumi stated.

According to Qaddumi, only a peace conference with the participation of the PLO and Israel will make the Middle East conflict more bearable. "It will also find a more just and adequate solution to establish a long-lasting peace," Qaddumi added.

According to Qaddumi, his visit to Brazil has served to strengthen Arab-Brazilian-Palestinian relations and to reaffirm the positions adopted by the Brazilian Government at international forums. Asked about the Brazilian decision not to grant embassy status to the PLO office, Qaddumi said: "What matters here are the remarks made by President Sarney and Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre that Brazil fully supports the undeniable rights of the Palestinian people, the return of the Palestinians to their land, and the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state."

Qaddumi also stressed the importance of the PLO maintaining continous contacts with representatives of religious organizations, whether they be Christian, Jewish, or Muslim. In Brasilia he met with Msgr Paulo Pontes, chairman of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops. Tomorrow he will meet with Sao Paulo Archbishop Dom Paulo Evaristo Arns. "We are very much interested in maintaining close relations with the church to explain our position in favor of law, justice, and peace," Qaddumi added.

President Dismisses Three EBN Directors

PY2506013288 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Jun 88 p 2

[Text] Brasilia—President Jose Sarney yesterday dismissed Eduardo Mamcasz, director superintendent of the Brazilian News Agency (EBN), who was responsible for the interview during which Armed Forces Chief of Staff Brigadier General Paulo Roberto Camarinha criticized the government's salary policy. Director Norma Marquez Eleuterio, who was in charge of the arrangements for President Sarney's visit to the PRC, and director Eliezer de Souza Teixeira have also been dismissed.

Yesterday journalist Antonio Martins was appointed president of the Brazilian Communications Company, Inc, which is the result of the merging of EBN and Radiobras [Brazilian Radiobroadcasting Company].

Finance Minister To Propose Loan Program

OW2706051088 Tokyo KYODO in English 0306 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Rio de Janeiro June 26 KYODO—Brazil's Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega will leave here Wednesday for a five-day visit to Japan to propose a 5 billion U.S. dollar loan program, a government official said Monday.

The loan program covers about 20 projects, including development of electric power, agriculture and railroad systems, the official said.

Da Nobrega will have talks with Japan's key cabinet ministers, including Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno and International Trade and Industry Minister Hajime Tamura, as well as Eiichi Nakano, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, during his stay in Tokyo from July 4 to 6.

Before going to Tokyo, he plans to stay in Kyoto on July 2 and 3, the official said.

The Japanese Government will not give a definite answer on the proposal before the end of August, when Foreign Minister Uno is scheduled to visit Brazil, diplomatic sources in Brasilia said.

Government Pays $350 Million to Creditor Banks

PY2406210288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2004 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] New York, 24 Jun (EFE)—The Brazilian Government today paid $350 million from its reserves to commercial banks to cover interest payments on its foreign debt that were due in March.

The announcement was made in New York by Antonio Seixas, director of the Brazilian Central Bank Foreign Debt Department, and by William Rhodes, chairman of the steering committee of creditor banks.

On 22 June, Brazil and the steering committee agreed to reschedule—over a 20-year period—$61 billion of the approximately $67-billion Brazilian debt to commercial banks.

The agreement includes a $5.2-billion loan to Brazil to refinance interest payments on its debt for 1987, 1988, and the first half of 1989.

Brazil also agreed to pay $350 million—which it did today—immediately upon signing the agreement, and to pay $1 billion on 30 June to cover overdue interest payments for April and May.

Communiques Differ Slightly

PY2406220588 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Jun 88 p A-25

[By Fernando Rodrigues]

[Text] There are several differences between the Brazilian Government communique in Portuguese, which was released to the press in Brasilia, and the Citibank note in English, which was released in New York.

The main differences are:

1. In the Brazilian communique, the amount [of fresh funds] is $5.8 billion, of which $5.2 billion was "for long-term credits" and $600 million was "to readjust short-term credit lines." In the Citibank note, the amount is only $5.2 billion, including the $600 million.

2. The second paragraph of the Citibank note immediately makes clear that Brazil will pay $350 million tomorrow to cover the interest due last March, and $1 billion on 30 June to cover April and May interest. The 10-page version in Portuguese does not mention these payments.

3. The Portuguese version states that the creditor banks may convert $1.8 billion of the money being lent now. It adds that "this amount can be converted without using the auction system for the conversion of the debt." During the news conference, Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega did not further explain the topic. The English

version used the expression "face value" [preceding two words in English], making it clear the country will allow the conversion, without discount, of $1.8 billion.

4. In the Portuguese version, the press was informed that Central Bank property will not be impounded in case of noncompliance with the payment contract, while in the Citibank communique nothing was said in this regard.

5. As for the exit bonds [bonus de saida], the Brazilian communique did not mention that these bonds can be exchanged, without discount, for National Treasury Orders (OTN), nor that they can be used in the debt-export swap program, when this program is created. There are other discrepancies between the Portuguese and English versions of the communique, but they might stem from problems in translation. For instance, while in the Portuguese version $600 million are mentioned for replenishing "short-term" credits, in the English version that amount is referred to as a "medium-term" credit line. During the press conference he granted yesterday, Minister Mailson da Nobrega said the English version will be translated later. The final impression is that two different texts had been prepared for announcing the conclusion of the agreement, to give the announcement more impact.

Sodre States Importance of PRC Visit

PY2506013588 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre has stressed the significance of the visit President Jose Sarney will pay to the PRC. Abreu Sodre said the most important result of the visit will be an accord that will give Brazil access to remote sensing satellite technology.

[Begin Abreu Sodre recording] I believe the most significant point has to do with the technological sector. Actually, we will sign an accord for the construction of two remote sensing satellites, which will evaluate and monitor a number of resources. This technical support, which is necessary for agricultural, forestry, ecological, hydrographic, and oceanographic research, is in the hands of the developed countries. We will now have this technology, and we may even sell it. [end recording]

The minister stressed that the accord will give sophisticated technology to Brazil.

Army Minister Returns From PRC, France

PY2506012388 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Jun 88 p 5

[Text] Army Minister General Leonidas Pires Goncalves returned yesterday from a 2-week official visit to the PRC. The basis for technological and scientific cooperation in the military area was discussed during the trip. Minister Pires Goncalves was met by the PRC defense minister, who escorted him on a visit to the facilities of NORINCO [no expansion given], a war materiel manufacturing plant. The PRC war industry is today among the most advanced in the world and is a leading seller of weapons.

The possibilities for Sino-Brazilian cooperation, which were sounded out by the Brazilian Army Minister, are centered in the area of missiles, explosives, and cannons. The PRC is highly developed in this field and is one of the few countries besides the United States and the Soviet Union that has mastered the technology of rocket-propelled satellite launching vehicles.

Another product of the PRC war industry, the technology of which is of interest to Brazil, is the shoulder-launched missile, which is used for defense.

Before returning to Brazil, Minister Pires Goncalves was in France, where he visited the Aerospatiale facilities and negotiated with company executives the purchase of 52 Dauphin and Esquilo helicopters for the Army aviation battalion based in Itaubate, Sao Paulo State. This purchase amounts to $240 million (44.4 billion cruzados), and under the contract France is commited to buy an equivalent sum in Brazilian products. The first helicopters will be delivered in March 1989.

The Aerospatiale Company is associated with the Brazilian firms ENGESA [Specialized Engineers, Inc.] and HELIBRAS [Brazilian Helicopters, Inc.] in this deal. The French might purchase Tucano military training planes from Brazil.

Parties Prepare for November Elections

PY2406192188 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Excerpts] For more than 20 years, the Brazilian electors had only two parties to choose from. In the 1982 election, however, the electors chose their candidates from five parties.

In 1986, 30 parties requested permission from the Superior Electoral Court to take part in the elections. Several of those parties did not present candidates and, as a result, ceased to exist.

In the last elections, 12 parties had their candidates elected to the national Congress. PMDB candidates were elected to 307 of the 559 congressional seats; the PFL candidates occupied 131 chairs; the PDS [Social Democratic Party], 37; the PDT [Democratic Workers Party], 26; and the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party], 18.

In addition to these large parties, some small parties also had their candidates elected. Other small parties, however, could not elect candidates to a single congressional chair, and the electors do not remember them any longer. [passage omitted]

For the municipal elections that will be held in November, when more than 4,000 counties will elect their mayors and councilmen, the number of parties fielding candidates will be great.

According to the Superior Electoral Court, 23 parties are ready to run in the elections. Seven of these parties—the PMDB, PDS, PTB, PT, PFL, PDT, and PL [Liberal Party]—have already obtained their definitive registration. Sixteen other parties have obtained their temporary registration, and eight others have requested registration.

Some very new parties, however, can still be found. The law that regulates registration for the upcoming elections sets 10 July as the deadline for requesting registration. Several politicians are already taking the necessary steps for registration. [passage omitted]

New Party Founded, Named; Covas To Chair

PY2506181388 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Excerpts] PMDB dissidents have named the new party they founded as the Brazilian Party of Social Democracy [Partido da Social Democracia Brasileira].

At a meeting at the congress this morning, it was also decided that Senator Mario Covas will be the party's first chairman. [passage omitted]. Senator Jose Paulo Bisol of Rio Grande do Sul State has also joined the party.

While receiving greetings from various parts of the country, the authorized representatives voted on a name for the party. They decided to call it the Brazilian Party of Social Democracy and chose Sao Paulo Senator Mario Covas to be the first party chairman.

Each chairman will occupy the presidency for only 2 months, thus making it possible for all leaders to occupy the position. [passage omitted]

With the new registration this morning, the party now has 8 senators and 38 deputies.

Chile

General Pinochet Called 'Virtual Candidate'

PY2506223088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1532 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Santiago, 25 Jun (EFE)—General Fernando Matthei, Chilean Air Force commander in chief, has admitted that General Augusto Pinochet is the virtual candidate for the upcoming plebiscite, because his candidacy is provided for in the Constitution.

Gen Matthei, who is also a member of the government junta, made that statement in Punta Arenas, 2,470 km south of Santiago, during an official visit, local newspapers reported today.

Asked about the date of the plebiscite, Matthei replied that "the date will not be set before September, nor after December. The government junta will probably meet in August or September to nominate the candidate."

The Constitution in force now establishes that the four members of the government junta—the commanders of the Army (Pinochet), the Navy, the Air Force, and the Carabineros—must nominate the presidential candidate.

Until now, the only name that has been mentioned is that of President Augusto Pinochet, who has governed Chile since a coup on 11 September 1973 overthrew the late Socialist President Salvador Allende.

The Chilean Air Force commander in chief also denied rumors about Chile's alleged interest in upgrading the equipment of the Air Force and the Carabineros, and that the purchase of combat aircraft and helicopters, including second-hand Mirage planes from Brazil, is being contemplated.

Matthei said that 70 or 80 percent of military expenditures are earmarked for salary payments, and that strictly military funds are scarce "because the country's resources must be oriented towards national development."

FPMR's Buschmann Comments on Plebiscite

FL2406145588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1152 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Interview with Sergio Buschmann, spokesman for the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, FPMR, by unidentified reporter for "Morning Magazine" program; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] There's a great deal of expectation in Chile. All forces are anxiously waiting for the upcoming plebiscite scheduled for late this year by the military dictatorship. It is meant to perpetuate the military regime. We discuss this topic with Sergio Buschmann, spokesman for the FPMR national committee. Mr Buschmann, what will the front's position on the plebiscite be?

[Buschmann] We have clearly stated our position in two earlier statements. One was last week and the other 15 days ago. We define and illustrate our position in the following way: The plebiscite is not being held because we want one or are interested in one. We believe that the premise for the plebiscite is the perpetuation of the dictatorship. However, (?conflicts) exist, just as this microphone here exists. There are 6 million Chileans registered. [sentence as heard] It is a fact that places us on the political scene. This being so, the duty of every revolutionary is to undertake a study to reverse a situation the enemy has filled with obstacles.

What do we say against the plebiscite? That there are many honest people who believe the plebiscite is valid. In other words, not having thought of the national reality in depth,

they think that Pinochet is going to turn over the government if the vote is "no." This is not based on facts. There have been 15 years of torture, of the most brazen murders. Now that we have reached this level of brutality and international terrorism under Pinochet, what real reasons do we have to think that he is going to respect the people's "no"? We don't think this is possible.

Therefore, we say the following: What is going to happen with those people when they see the fraud committed that day? They are going to feel a great deal of indignation and frustration. We feel there might be a street mobilization produced as a result of the hate aroused by this fraud, which might in turn lead to higher levels of struggle. We, the FPMR, will know how to channel this hate and frustration of the people.

[Reporter] How do you characterize Chile's current political climate? That is, considering the statements made by the opposition forces and those of the regime's officials?

[Buschmann] The dictatorship, acting on the people's poor analysis of its brutal regime, has created a certain image. This has brought about different positions on the "no." The center right, the Social Democrats, say that if the "no" wins, they will talk with the Armed Forces about a joint candidate. They think that the Armed Forces are going to listen to them and respect their views! They have been kicked in the face for 15 years but they still think that they are going to be listened to.

Then there's the Communist Party, the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left], which talk about a "no" that is very close to a break, a "no" very close to mobilization. They have no doubts that Pinochet will disregard a "no." These are differing views that are trying to converge in this national plebiscite. We have already said what our position is. At the same time, though, we respect all positions. For us, a "no" vote is a form of protest. We respect that. Of course, I have explained our "no" before.

That's what's happening in Chilean politics.

[Reporter] What are the front's future plans?

[Buschmann] After 4 years of political-military armed struggle, we cannot expect to defeat the dictatorship militarily at this time. However, we are absolutely certain that the armed struggle is developing. It is teaching us more things each day. Hence, we are growing each day. We are maturing, politically and militarily. We haven't the slightest doubt that in the long run political-military victory is ours.

However, this concept is too serious. We must be responsible and explain it. We are convinced there are no guarantees the Chilean people will not be massacred again if the weapons change hands. So we say that we are never going to lay down our arms as long as there are no guarantees that they will not be turned against the people.

PDC Leaders Reject PCCh Criticism

PY2506211788 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Report from Talagante by Raul Pena Sawyer]

[Text] Patricio Aylwin, president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and spokesman of the No-Vote Command, today said at the national meeting of PDC leaders that there is no alliance with the proscribed PCCh and that this Marxist party [reference to PDC] is not condescending to PCCh plans.

After harshly criticizing the government, Aylwin said the plebiscite represents hard work that must be undertaken by the party leaders and militants.

PDC Secretary Gutemberg Martinez said here that about 300 PDC delegates from all over the country will analyze the electoral problem here at the Sacred Heart retirement home in Melipilla.

Martinez said that 6 months of pre-election campaigning was completed on 30 May, and that the next 3 or 4 months will be ones of intense campaigning.

Meanwhile, Genaro Arriagada, secretary of the No-Vote Command, urged the PDC leaders to work hard on the undecided voters. He believes the no-vote will be supported by people between 18 and 40 years of age, but that the yes-vote will be supported by women, senior citizens, and the poor.

Adolfo Zaldivar, a PDC adviser who worked hard to have his party recognized officially, also attended the meeting. He replied as follows to PCCh leader Jose Sanfuentes' statements charging the PDC leadership with dividing the opposition:

[Begin Zaldivar recording] Mr Sanfuentes' statements are not only insolent, but they demonstrate that he understands absolutely nothing about what has happened in this country.

The PCCh, which in the beginning repudiated this plebiscite, is today trying to monopolize it, distort its meaning, and radicalize it. [end recording]

He added that this demonstrates that the PCCh is outside the historical context of this country. It does not represent any national sector.

PDC Vice President Andres Zaldivar, who is about to depart for Rome, where he will participate in a meeting of the Christian Democratic International, and who will meet with Pope John Paul II on 30 June, was also present at the PDC meeting here. We asked him about the conflict with the PDC youth, who have suggested their own dissolution. He answered that the issue has been

exaggerated, and that the youth can make whatever proposals they wish. However, the final decisions will be made by the majority of the party members.

Regarding the criticisms made by the PCCh, Andres Zaldivar said he is not worried because the PCCh is simply shouting from the other side of the street.

The PDC leadership meeting here in Talagante will conclude tomorrow.

Norwegian Government To Demand Use of Visa

PY2406185288 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry has reported that as of 1 July 1988 the Norwegian Government will demand the use of visas for Chileans wishing to travel to that country. This report was released by Foreign Ministry Spokesman Carlos Ducci.

This measure has been adopted because of the unscrupulous use, by some Chileans, of the privilege of not having to carry a visa, Ducci added. [passage omitted]

Ducci explained that the Foreign Ministry is studying this measure by the Norwegian Government, and considering adopting reciprocal measures.

Student Demonstrators Arrested in Concepcion

PY2506170088 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Report from Concepcion by reporter Jose Miguel Concha]

[Text] Four university students are in the custody of the second military court of Concepcion after having been arrested by Carabineros during an incident that took place at the crossing of (Pedro Yuruzerba) and [name indistinct] Streets.

According to an official report, a demonstration staged by university students interrupted traffic on an important avenue, thus forcing the special Carabineros forces to intervene. The demonstrators violently attacked police cars with sticks and stones causing damages amounting to 12,000 pesos.

The Carabineros arrested the following students: Luis San Martin Beltran, Omar Tobar Tobar, (Pedro Fierro Celezea), and (Rafael Villalobos Alvial). These students are charged with promoting disorder on the streets and damaging a police car with sharp objects. After being sent to a Carabineros station, they were all placed in the custody of the second military court.

Two Bomb Attacks Reported, No Casualties

PY2406214788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1834 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Santiago, 24 Jun (EFE)—Two bomb attacks were perpetrated against an electric pole and a public transport bus at dawn today in different parts of Santiago. However, the explosions caused no casualties.

According to the police today, two unidentified individuals planted a bomb on an electric pole in a suburban region of Santiago.

The same report states that, despite the explosion, the electricity supply to this sector was not interrupted.

Other unidentified individuals sprayed a public transport bus parked on a street of this capital with fuel and set it afire. The bus was completely destroyed, but no casualties were reported.

Colombia

Barco Appoints Alcid as New Justice Minister

PA2506015898 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Colombian Liberal Senator Guillermo Plazas Alcid has been appointed the new Colombian justice minister. He is the seventh justice minister appointed during the Barco administration.

Plazas Alcid, who is 52 years old and originally from Huila, has been Senate president and president of the Liberal National directorate. In addition, Plazas has also been Colombian ambassador to the Soviet Union and Egypt.

Plazas Alcid is a lawyer and replaces Enrique Low after the failed appointments of Guillermo Giraldo and Jaime Bernal Cuellar.

The new justice minister was elected Huila senator in an alliance with the Patriotic Union. Plazas tonight confirmed the acceptance of the appointment.

Noriega Mediation in Gomez Case Denied

PA2606214488 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1656 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Bogota, 26 Jun (DPA)—Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas has said the country "will not succumb to terrorist strategy," and he reiterated his criticism of sectors that "exaggerate" the government's difficulties.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Cesar Gaviria Trujillo emphatically denied that the release of former presidential candidate Alvaro Gomez Hurtado is being negotiated in Panama with the alleged mediation of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the Panama Defense Forces.

Barco Vargas and Gaviria Trujillo made their statements in the Colombian coffee-producing region in the central-western part of the country, where they inaugurated infrastructure projects.

The president pointed out "there can be no complacency or complicity with terrorists who are waging a dirty war against democracy. Either we outright reject these inhuman and primitive methods that violate the laws and customs that protect man's dignity and rights, or we will be easy prey for the terrorist strategy."

Barco Vargas reiterated his criticism of the people who "exaggerate" the situation. He said this during a speech similar to one he made 2 weeks ago, when it was reported that a group of politicians and industrialists were promoting a letter to request his resignation because of his alleged "inability to govern the country."

"Neither the terrorists nor their supporters, who spread unrest in every corner of the country, will force me from fulfilling the oath of respect for the constitution and the laws that establish the legitimate exercise of power," the president said.

Gaviria Trujillo, meanwhile, pointed out that the government has not contacted the 19 April Movement (M-19) in Colombia or in any other country concerning the release of Gomez Hurtado, who today completes 4 weeks in captivity.

An unofficial report, later denied by the Panamanian Government, announced that the M-19 had asked Noriega to serve as a mediator in the kidnapping.

The Colombian Government has said it is willing to talk with Gomez Hurtado's captors but without "compromising" institutional principles.

Military Criticizes Dialogue With Guerrillas

PA2406213288 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1624 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Bogota, 24 Jun—After the government announced it was willing to make concessions in exchange for the release of a kidnapped politician, the possibility of beginning a dialogue with the rebel groups for a new peace agreeement has widened the differences between the leftist groups and the Armed Forces. [passage omitted] "The military is fighting the guerrillas, terrorism, and crime. We are not talking about dialogue; the Armed Forces have nothing to do with the dialogue," Defense Minister General Rafael Samudio Molina told reporters at Cucuta.

Samudio Molina's statements were reinforced by remarks made by Armed Forces Commander General Manuel Jaime Guerrero Paz on the leftist initiative for negotiating with the guerrillas.

"I am not criticizing a dialogue process. I have said many times that dialogue has not led to anything, and proof of this is the kidnapping of Dr Alvaro Gomez Hurtado," Guerrero Paz said.

Patriotic Union President Bernardo Jaramillo said that the guerrilla groups are an important factor in the situation and that they should be included in the dialogue and allowed to seek a new peace agreement. [passage omitted]

M-19 Claims Kidnapping of Gomez Hurtado

PA2606043588 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Jun 88 p 8-A

[War bulletin from the M-19 "Heroes of the Palace" Operational Force Command issued "in Colombia" on 4 June]

[Text] Republic of Colombia

M-19, Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board

From: "Heroes of the Palace" Operational Force Command

To: M-19 General Commander

Subject: War bulletin, Operation Life to the Nation

Date: 4 June 1988

Hour: 1900

The Operational Force Command informs you and the public that:

1. On 24 April 1988 we received your Order No 005 of 23 April.

2. To fulfill the mission in question we formed—selecting distinguished fighters—the Colombians for National Salvation unit, composed of three squadrons: the Fernando Erazo Murcia and Benjamin Munoz Squadrons (in honor of the comrades captured on 16 April, who were placed in the custody of the BIM [expansion unknown] and the 8th Brigade and whose whereabouts are unknown—in other words, by thus naming these squadrons, we will make our demands heard until our comrades are returned alive) and the Jaime Bermeo Squadron (in honor of the Bogota militia chief, captured on 17 April at a joint police and Army checkpoint in Bogota and later found dead in Tena, his body riddled with 18 bullet wounds and showing signs of torture).

3. On 29 May, the Jaime Bermeo Squadron located and captured Dr Alvaro Gomez H in a commando operation in which Gomez's bodyguard, DAS [Administrative Department of Security] officer Juan de Dios Hidalgo, was killed when he attempted to resist the attack. The squadron returned to its base with the detainee uninjured.

4. Between the day of his capture and the present date, the detainee was uneventfully transferred to the Martyrs of Uraba camp.

5. Our forces and the detainee are at your disposal. We note that Gomez Hurtado is in excellent physical and mental condition, and he is behaving admirably.

6. In fulfillment of your instructions, we are informing the people of your order and of this victory.

Gomez Kidnap 'Order'

PA2606025488 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Jun 88 p 8-A

[M-19 General Command "order" issued "in Colombia" on 23 April]

[Text] M-19 Order No 005

Republic of Colombia

Date: 23 April 1988

Hour: 1700

From: General Command

To: "Heroes of the Palace" Operational Force Command

Subject: Combat Order (Classified)

Whereas:

1. This country's oligarchy is responsible for the national crisis, which should be confronted with emergency measures;

2. The Barco government's lack of democratic beliefs is leading the country to a bottomless pit with its dirty war policy, whose most recent expressions have been the massacre of peasants in Uraba and Cordoba, the continuous murder of opposition leaders, and the capture and disappearance of our comrades Fernando Erazo, Jaime Bermeo, Benjamin Munoz, and Bertha de Erazo;

3. It is necessary for the moral and actual masterminds of this situation—the political class, the oligarchic regime—to assume their responsibility toward the nation; and

4. All the forces that believe in broad participation as a solution to the national crisis should be given the opportunity they have long been denied to express their proposals and participate in the decisions that concern our collective future;

The M-19's general commander orders:

1. The location and capture of Alvaro Gomez Hurtado or, in his place, any other recognized exponent of the oligarchic regime or promoter of the use of force to solve the national crisis.

2. The detainee's transfer to one of our camps or the camps of any of the organizations that comprise the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board, regardless of the resources that may have to be used to achieve the goal.

3. The detainee must be treated as a prisoner of war, in strict compliance with international conventions.

4. Once the above orders have been fulfilled, this decision and its results are to be reported to the national and international public. The detainee will be placed in the M-19 general commander's custody.

5. Time allotted for completing the mission: 45 days.

Carlos Pizarro Leongomez

General Commander

Army Inflicts 17 Casualties on Guerrillas

PA2406192588 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] The Army has dealt one of the most demolishing blows to the narco-guerrillas in Cauca Department, where it inflicted 17 subversive casualties and captured 10.

The 3d Army Brigade Command confirmed that its units raided a farm in Corinto and discovered a 5,000-hectare cocaine plantation, a laboratory to process the alkaloid, and sophisticated equipment to press and pack marijuana.

Following the raid, members of the M-19 and the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board clashed with Army troops, which inflicted 17 insurgent casualties and captured 10. They were turned over to a special judge and the proper authorities.

Paraguay

Police Seize Large Shipment of Cocaine

PY2306160188 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 23 Jun 88 pp 22, 23

[Text] Members of the National Narcotics Department, Criminal Judge Pablo Vicente Ibarra, and prosecutor Edgar Romero raided a house on 969 Julio Correa Street near Teniente Rios Street in the Mburucuya District of Asuncion. They discovered a shipment of 20.7 kg of cocaine in transit to a foreign country. The report indicates that the cocaine is 97 percent pure. During the raid the police and judicial branch officials arrested a Chilean citizen with the surname Mendez Soto, and a Colombian with the surname of Policarpo, who were taken under strict security to the Narcotics Department for interrogation. The report also indicates that the house was rented by the Colombian.

Another report indicates that most of the cocaine was found in the above-mentioned house, and the remainder in a house on Teniente Farina Street in Asuncion, and in another house in Luque.

It is difficult to get more information on the operations because, as one of the officials said, giving more information could obstruct the police investigation. We also learned that a shipment of about 500 kg of cocaine was reportedly brought from Bolivia to be shipped to other countries, presumably including Spain. As we reported, about 270 Kg of cocaine has been seized by officials and the investigation continues. It is suspected that there is more cocaine to be seized.

It should be reported that officials also seized in the house on Julio Correa Street several documents, most of them false, which were used by the drug traffickers to deceive the police. The documents are being examined by Judge Pablo Vicente Ibarra, who is ordering a proceeding.

Officials acted very quickly and this is why the two foreigners were not able to escape. They were surrounded by the police and offered no resistence. They said that they would cooperate to clarify the situation.

A high-level police spokesman told this newspaper that the cocaine seized is the largest amount discovered in our country, and that more information will be available on the spectacular raid in the next few hours. Criminal Judge Pablo Vicente Ibarra is working very hard in cooperation with the Police. He is overseeing all the proceedings. Yesterday he was out of his office most of the day.

The people under arrest are providing important information to narcotics officials who are gathering information for Judge Ibarra, which he will need to file charges. A woman who reportedly acted as "contact" for the drug traffickers is also under arrest, but her name was not disclosed.

Cocaine Flown From Bolivia

PY2306161688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1515 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] Asuncion, 23 Jun (EFE)—Spain and the United States were presumably the destination of 268.4 kg of cocaine discovered a few hours ago in Asuncion in the largest drug seizure in the history of Paraguay.

Police Officer Felix Arzamendia of the Paraguayan Narcotics Department told EFE that the cocaine, which is 97 or 98 percent pure, is worth $3.2 million, but after it is cut and divided into small doses, its value could reach $53.6 million.

The source stated that the people arrested in this case are Bolivians Cristobal Mendez Solis, 22, and Flor Maria Quinteros de Smith, 45, and Colombian Ricardo Policarpo Rojas, 32.

The people under arrest were "couriers" of an international gang of drug traffickers with connections in Colombia, Bolivia, Haiti, the United States, Spain, and Paraguay.

Arzamendia said that the chief of the gang in Paraguay, Roberto Paredes, who is the son of a Paraguayan Army colonel, is still at large.

The source indicated that the cocaine, which is 97 or 98 percent pure was brought to Paraguay from Bolivia on board an airplane piloted by Paredes, who is also the regular pilot of Oswaldo Dominguez Dibb, president of the Olimpia Soccer Club, the most important club in the country.

Arzamendia said the airplane that brought the drugs from Bolivia "presumably" belongs to to Dominguez Dibb.

Before arriving in Asuncion the airplane carrying the drugs made made a stop at a ranch owned by Paredes in the Paraguayan Chaco. Arzamendia said that the ranch has not yet been raided because of the difficulties in getting there.

The gang that has been dismantled in Paraguay had been operating for 1 year, but it was detected by the police 6 months ago.

At least six trips were made to Madrid and Miami by the "mules" [couriers] carrying the hidden drugs.

Arzamendia said that the operation being conducted in Paraguay is linked to the arrest on 18 June at Barajas International Airport an Madrid of four people carrying 50 kg of cocaine.

The shipment arrived in Madrid on Iberia Airline from Asuncion.

Paraguay is being used as an alternate route over which to carry drugs to the United States and Europe because the traditional routes in South America are under strict police control.

Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit to South Korea

For Seoul media reports of the visit to the Republic of Korea by Paraguayan Minister of Foreign Relations Carlos Augusto Saldivar, including his arrival in Seoul, and his meetings with ROK Foreign Minister Choe Kwang-su, President No Tae-u, and Prime Minister Yi Hyon-chae, please see the 24 June East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Peru

Government Issues Decrees To Combat Smuggling

PY2406141988 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] In compliance with instructions from the president of the Republic and in keeping with the struggle to eradicate contraband, the Council of Ministers has approved four supreme decrees which include the following measures:

I. The borders shall be closed for 30 days to all merchandise and trade except for that established by international treaties and agreements.

II. Autonomous border authorities [autoridades autonomas de fronteras] shall be established, made up of:

A. The department prefect, who will head the authority;

B. The top-ranking military authority in the area;

C. The police force's regional director or its representative;

D. The Agrarian Ministry department director;

E. The customs director;

F. The Industry, Commerce, Tourism, and Integration Ministry department director;

G. The Health Ministry department director;

H. The Fisheries Ministry regional director;

I. The Energy and Mines Ministry department director;

J. The captain of the port.

The autonomous border authorities will have the following responsibilities:

1. To regulate, supervise, control, and authorize the supply and distribution of basic foodstuffs, as well as strategic products and essential products established in supreme Decree No 0/74, issued on 23 June 1988.

2. To control the traffic of the aforementioned products and to prohibit the unauthorized exit of those products and other contraband from national territory. They shall have authority and responsibility for the road control posts in their jurisdictions and for the personnel who work there.

3. To enforce the proper punishment of those who violate this decree.

4. To grant monetary awards to those who report any violations and who confiscate merchandise in compliance with the regulations in force.

5. To propose complementary actions or modifications for the better fulfillment of their duties.

6. To inform the prime minister about the fulfillment of this supreme decree.

III. The products that receive subsidies from the state or products with controlled prices will not be allowed out of the country. They are: edible oils in general, sugar, noodles, bread, milk, evaporated milk, condensed milk, powdered milk, margarine, butter, dried vegetables, urea, sodium nitrate, ammonium nitrate, super phosphate, ammonium sulfate, potassium chloride, potassium sulfate, magnesium sulfate, potassium sulfate, disinfectants, fungicides, herbicides, beef, mutton, offal, wheat, wheat flour, molasses, whole wheat, chaff from ground wheat and rice, soybeans, cotton pellets, uncombed and combed cotton, yellow corn, hard grain cacao, cement, fuel and lubricants in general, medicine in general, and steel rods and angles in all dimensions and forms.

IV. The system of lookout posts to prevent food from the large Lima markets being taken toward the borders shall be reinstalled.

V. Products sold in the border areas will be in containers of different shapes and sizes.

VI. The sale of oil that could be sold abroad shall be restricted on the rivers of the Amazon.

Lima, 23 June 1988

Signed: Presidential Press Secretariat

Shining Path Leader Guzman, Deputy Said Alive

PY2406145088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0150 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Lima, 23 Jun (EFE)—According to a letter addressed to Shining Path "number two" Osman Morote, Abimael Guzman Reinoso, alias "President Gonzalo," the leader and founder of the Peruvian Guerrilla movement, is alive.

Morote was arrested in Lima on 11 June. A letter found among his belongings indicates that Guzman and Julio Cesar Mezzich, one of his lieutenants, are alive.

According to the press today, the letter, which Guzman allegedly sent to Morote, gives some indications as to the whereabouts of the Shining Path leader.

A police inspector has told the newspaper EXPRESSO that the letter and other handwritten documents found on Morote give names and places visited by Guzman and Mezzich in Peru. The two leaders' whereabouts have been a mystery for a long time.

This fact has for some time given rise to rumors about the alleged death of "President Gonzalo" and his deputy Mezzich.

Sectors of the police believe, however, that Abimael Guzman "has been dead for a long time" because no one can disappear for such a long time—nearly a decade—without a trace.

Morote's letters seem to contradict this supposition. The EXPRESO source said he could not reveal anything more.

Meanwhile, yesterday afternoon Osman Morote did not appear to testify in court. According to the antiterrorist laws in effect, the police can hold a prisoner for 15 days before taking him to court.

Morote's absence in court has provoked the angry reaction of defense lawyer Manuel Febres. He accused the police of being "in contempt" of court.

The Antiterrorist Directorate (DIRCOTE) sent a notification to the Second Correctional Court of Lima in charge of the case, saying that Morote was being checked up at a hospital to make sure he is in good health.

Presiding Judge Carlos Saponara Milligan told the defense lawyer he "will not tolerate" this attitude and ordered a recess until 27 June.

The authorities imposed very strict security measures around the court where Morote was scheduled to testify.

6 Die, 4 Wounded in Rebel Attack in Arequipa

PY2406220888 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Yesterday afternoon six people were killed and four others seriously injured in a terrorist attack in the (Arcana) mining district, which is located in the upper Arequipa region. Two civil guards and four miners were killed in the terrorist attack. The four injured policemen were immediately rushed to the Arequipa regional hospital, where they are recovering.

As a result of an operation that was immediately carried out, the national police arrested five subversives. Among them is a woman who was the leader of the group responsible for this cowardly attack.

Bomb Damages Aeroperu Office in Lima

PY2306135588 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Terrorists set off a bomb in a building in the Miraflores district, damaging a bingo parlor, a restaurant, and the office of Aeroperu [Peruvian State Airlines].

The attack occurred at 0130 this morning, causing serious damage but no casualties. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

'In Principle' Gorbachev To Visit in 1989

PY2506004988 Montevideo LA HORA in Spanish 17 Jun 88 p 5

[Text] Uruguayan Foreign Ministry sources have told LA HORA that, in principle, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would visit Uruguay in 1989. However, Argentine Foreign Ministry sources have confirmed that Gorbachev will make an official visit to Argentina in October.

Official reports datelined Buenos Aires state that the CPSU secretary general will visit Argentina in early October.

It was also disclosed in Buenos Aires that Gorbachev's tour could also include Cuba and Mexico, in view of the invitations he received for his first Latin American tour.

Gorbachev's visit is intended to reciprocate an official visit President Raul Alfonsin made to the Soviet Union in October 1986.

Mechanisms to carry out the agreements on economic, scientific, and cultural cooperation signed by Alfonsin and Gorbachev will be implemented during the Soviet leader's visit. The creation of joint ventures to manufacture products for third countries—an initiative that has not been implemented as yet—is included among the economic agreements signed by Argentina and the Soviet Union.

Uruguayan Foreign Ministry sources reported that Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano met with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, during the recent UN conference on disarmament. Gorbachev's visit to Uruguay in 1989 was discussed during the meeting.

Gorbachev's visit is to reciprocate a tour that President Sanguinetti and a high-level entourage made to Moscow.

Incidents Mark Transportation Stoppage

PY2506021588 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Today 37 people were arrested during incidents in the general transportation stoppage. Montevideo Police Chief Leonel Luna Mendez told Radio Carve that the detainees, who were placed at the disposal of the courts on charges of disobeying the authorities, were later released by a judge. Luna Mendez said the police will continue the same control measures over the weekend, adding that the executive branch has not decided to order policemen to drive buses in case the conflict gets worse.

[Begin Luna Mendez recording] [passage omitted] I believe the result of the police operation has been quite satisfactory, because only two buses were stoned and no one was injured. Late in the afternoon a bus was set afire on (Gobernador del Pino) Street. The bus was parked by

its owner in front of his house. Tire breakers, which are used for stopping vehicles, were found in several places. [passage omitted]; [end recording]

Communist Party Leader Requests Replacement

PY2506032788 Montevideo LA HORA in Spanish 17 Jun 88 p 9

[Declaration issued by the Uruguayan Communist Party Central Committee in Montevideo on 14 June]

[Excerpts] During the meetings held on 29 May and 14 June, the Uruguayan Communist Party [PCU] Central Committee listened to and discussed a proposal made by Comrade Rodney Arismendi that the upcoming party congress replace him as PCU secretary general.

Arismendi's proposal is based on the principle of the natural renewal of the party's leadership because he believes no post or responsibility should be held for life, and because he also believes in the need for continuity in the PCU leadership's formation and development. [passage omitted]

Various members praised Arismendi's proposal to be replaced as secretary general at a time when the PCU is growing and making great achievements, and at the peak of his career, noting that it not only represents an expression of his profound Communist spirit, but is also a concrete contribution of theoretical and political value to the party's Leninist doctrine.

It represents the continuation of a creative way of thinking developed throughout his life, which he has expressed not only in his works, books, and speeches, but also through his life as a Communist militant.

All the comrades who participated in the meetings praised these characteristics and noted the value the party grants to this new contribution for its construction and development, and especially to the natural renewal and improvement of the leadership.

During the meetings, which took place in an atmosphere of friendship, in addition to a political analysis the Communists praised and recalled the important moments of Arismendi's life and anecdotes and memories of his 57 years as a Communist militant and 60 years of struggling for social rights, noting that it is an experience that has ideologically, politically, and humanly enriched all of us and which should be transmitted to the entire party.

Comrade Arismendi will continue to work actively for the PCU, contributing his efforts to the great national liberation cause of the working class and socialism.

Other proposals that will be discussed by the party congress were also made.

Signed: Central Committee of the Uruguayan Communists Party

Montevideo, 14 June 1988

Venezuela

Argentine Foreign Minister Meets With Lusinchi

PA2406184288 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Report by Marta Salazar]

[Text] President Jaime Lusinchi and Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo have met in Miraflores Palace. They discussed various international issues, especially the possibility of reactivating the political mechanisms for the integration of the Latin American continent.

Another topic discussed was the evolution of the democratic process in Latin America. Special emphasis was placed on the situations in Haiti and Panama. In this regard, the Argentine foreign minister said the OAS and the Group of Eight, as regional organizations, must demand respect for the principle of nonintervention, but without forgetting the defense of democracy:

[Begin Caputo recording] We must give clear signals that we actively support democracy and human rights. We must reflect on what the most practical and efficient mechanisms are, because democracy cannot be defended with words but with actions. We will see how we can do this. Currently we are engaged in a sort of creative exchange and discussing what the best means are. There is a desire to carry on with this. [end recording]

Caputo also talked about the Argentine Government's proposal to pay 4 percent of the foreign debt, which Caputo said should be discussed between creditor and developing countries.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister German Nava Carrillo reiterated Venezuela's position on the situation in Essequibo, which was outlined in a communique. Nava Carrillo said he trusts the United Nations:

[Begin Nava recording] The UN secretary general accepted the responsibility that the three parties to the agreement—the UK, Guyana, and Venezuela—placed on him. His decision will be based on this agreement. [end recording]

In conclusion, the Argentine foreign minister talked about the political situation in his country, saying his government continues to strengthen the democratic system.

Comments on Falklands

PA2406200388 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Jun 88

["Part of exclusive" interview with Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo by Walter Martinez in Caracas; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Martinez] What is the Foreign Ministry's stand on the Malvinas-Falkland issue?

[Caputo] Our stand is very simple. There is a dispute concerning sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands. Since we belong to a community of nations that seeks to resolve problems through civilized methods, we resort only to negotiations to resolve our problems. That is why Argentina asks to negotiate on all problems. Our stand and our demand are not isolated. Many countries support us every year at the UN General Assembly vote on the Malvinas resolution. The Argentine stand is very simple: negotiations for solving a conflict.

[Martinez] During our recent visit to London, we were able to observe that the current British Government and the Labor Party have completely different stands. We noticed there are two stands: The stand voiced by Sir Geoffrey Howe when we interviewed him, and the stand voiced by Labor Party representatives. Would a Labor government allow a negotiated solution?

[Caputo] As you say, British politicians hold different views. President Alfonsin has held several meetings with opposition representatives. One concludes that if the opposition comes to power, it would be willing to begin negotiations with Argentina on all topics the two countries differ on, including the issue of sovereignty.

This, however, does not mean we will give up in our constant struggle with the current British Government. We will continue working at the diplomatic level to show the international community that our stand remains unchanged. We hope the opposition will keep its word if it comes to power. Our task today, however, is to insist on our demands for negotiations.

The Malvinas issue cannot be randomly set aside. It is a constant topic for discussion. Argentina will find the means for constantly bringing up this issue at the international level. Both the Argentine and British stands are quite clear. We are very concerned about that issue. Argentina insists that we must negotiate. The United Kingdom refuses to negotiate. This is a paradox. The United Kingdom is a permanent member of the UN Security Council. This means even greater responsibility. The Security Council and its permanent members have the basic task of ensuring peace in the world. We wonder: What is the United Kingdom thinking about when it refuses to negotiate? What is the method being used by a country that is a permanent member of the UN Security Council and who has responsibility for peace in the world? This is very simple: It is black and white. Either we negotiate, or what then? This is very important. The international community must be aware of that. Those who are watching this interview tonight should understand this. Argentina is not just asking for something. No, we are saying we know these things can be solved patiently, with common sense. We must face the problem. The British tell us: Let us negotiate about everything, except sovereignty. What kind of a sand castle are we going to build? What sort of illusions are we going to discuss if we ignore the main issue affecting us? We say we will go step by step, but not ignoring the main issue of the conflict. The issue of sovereignty cannot be hidden; that is not acceptable. Besides, it would not be very realistic.

[Martinez] In an exclusive interview with us, Sir Geoffrey said there are numerous offers for negotiations that have been turned down by the Argentine president.

[Caputo] It is unfortunate that he does not tell the truth.

[Martinez] What is your opinion on the fishing rights zone, which apparently coincides with the military zone around the Falklands-Malvinas Islands?

[Caputo] This is not an isolated fact, and it is related to a previous one: the creation of a zone [words indistinct] of the conflict in 1982. When the military zone was established, the other zone was established. As a matter of fact, these cover 150 miles. If in fact the British can set up this occupation in the area, it is because they threaten to use force. If we were to enter that zone, which we have given up, I think we would be confronted with an incident.

[Martinez] It would be a warlike action.

[Caputo] Yes, that is right. It is not that we are accepting the fishing rights zone, as they call it. Rather, to prevent incidents we are not entering the military zone that was declared after the war. This is not very clear; there is some confusion.

First of all, this issue of fishing rights has been invented by the British to internationalize the Malvinas waters. It is a very definite attempt to change their diplomatic offensive, because they have been doing so poorly with their offensive up to now. The United Kingdom aims to make these waters international. It has initiated a procedure to include the FAO—that is, to seek technical support from the FAO—to declare the Malvinas waters as international waters.

Argentine has replied, and this has led to more tension, which would take very long to explain now. At any rate, the creation of this 150-mile fishing zone represents another step in this aggression by the British Government. I insist the basic issue is as follows: Protected by the military zone, the British declare a fishing zone. Argentina rejects both zones but does not enter either

area to prevent an incident in the military zone. At any rate, we believe all of this shows who is exerting pressure and threatening to use force.

The Argentine democracy appeals for negotiations. The British Government refuses to negotiate. In addition, through the use of the fishing zone or the recent maneuvers, the British Government threatens to use force. This is contrary to the international community's wishes.

Signs Cooperation Agreement

PA2506152988 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Venezuelan and Argentine Foreign Ministers German Nava Carrillo and Dante Caputo, respectively, have signed a document [acta de reuniones] with the firm intention of strenghtening bilateral relations, solidarity, and mutual cooperation.

Concerning economic and trade cooperation, both foreign ministers asserted that regional and bilateral agreements strengthen the process of regional unity, because they create new trade and economic cooperation opportunities.

Concerning oil, the two foreign ministers agreed to exchange missions, taking into account the good relations that exist between Petroven and Argentine Fiscal Oil Fields, in order to increase cooperation between the two institutions.

Concerning drug trafficking, the two foreign ministers agreed that drug trafficking is undermining the ethical basis of the societies affected by it and jeopardizing the political stability and the public order situation of the affected countries.

The foreign ministers agreed to promote the necessary coordinated international strategies to eradicate drug trafficking.

[Begin Nava recording] This agreement, which could be interpreted as an initial step, is in fact the definite consolidation of a desire not only to act jointly in the field of bilateral relations but also to act jointly and to set courses of action concerning the presence of our two countries and our two peoples and governments in the panorama of Latin America and the entire world. [end recording]